



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Group Wants to Give 24th Street a Beauty Treatment

By Olivia Boler

A burgeoning movement whose motto is to make 24th Street "clean, safe, and beautiful" is taking its cue from neighborhoods in cities such as Portland and Los Angeles to ramp up Noe Valley's status as *the* San Francisco neighborhood in which to hang out and spend money.

Over the summer, volunteers from the residents' group Friends of Noe Valley, and members of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, teamed up to launch a campaign dubbed the 24th Street Project.

The Project, a Friends committee that is on its way to becoming a separate non-profit organization, has some ambitious goals. "What we're doing is similar to projects in cities like Atlanta, Cincinnati, and Portland," says member David Eiland.

At present, Richard May of the Noe Valley Democratic Club is chairing the group. He hopes that some of the short- and long-term ideas the volunteers are kicking around will appeal to local residents as well as boost Noe Valley's standing as a destination shopping district.

### Block Captains and Flower Baskets

"One short-term idea is the appointment of block captains," says May.

A block captain would most likely be a merchant working with other merchants to keep an eye on graffiti and dirty sidewalks. They would also organize monthly "clean sweeps," for which volunteers would show up with garbage bags and gloves and pick up litter on 24th Street.

May thinks these could be a fun activity for families. The "carrot" would be that after each cleanup, the volunteers would have a party at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market.

Some other short-term projects include



This sign on Sanchez Street expresses a sentiment shared by the 24th Street Project, a group that is thinking up new ways to beautify Noe Valley's commercial strip. Photo by Pamela Gerard

cleaning up the sidewalks of dog litter and garbage by renting steam cleaners, spiffing up neighborhood news racks, and bringing a touch of beauty to 24th Street with permanent flower baskets.

Eiland, who is co-owner of Just for Fun, a gift store at 24th and Noe, has taken on the task of organizing the purchase of flower baskets. By November, there will be eight of them at what Eiland terms the "gateway corners" of 24th Street: Church, Noe, and Castro streets. The goal is to eventually have 24 stainless-steel baskets, about 18 inches in diameter, attached to buildings along 24th Street.

Rock and Rose Landscaping of Cortland Avenue will set up and maintain the flower baskets. The initial cost per basket is approximately \$1,225 for the first year, which includes the basket, brackets, first plantings, and maintenance. Continuing maintenance fees, which are calculated on a yearly basis, are less than half the setup cost.

At the end of September, Eiland and his fellow Project members met to discuss

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Earthquakes Are Coming, Ready or Not

By Liz Highleyman

All the experts tell us the same thing: It's not a question of *if* the Big One will occur, but *when*. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, there's more than a 60 percent chance that a major earthquake will hit the Bay Area within the next 30 years. As San Francisco commemorates the 15th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake this month, there's no better time to think about emergency preparedness for yourself, your

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Cannabis Club Sets Up Shop on 22nd Street

By Peter Orsi

When it comes to shopping, Noe Valley has long enjoyed a smorgasbord of offbeat delights. Among the current tenants along the 24th Street strip are an olive oil retailer, a beading emporium, a soap shop, and a bookstore devoted exclusively to mysteries.

And now, Noe Valleyans—at least those with a doctor's go-ahead—have their own local store to buy pot, right off the eastern edge of the neighborhood.

The Green Cross medical marijuana dispensary opened July 28 in a storefront at 3420 22nd Street, next door to the Liberties Irish pub. (Some consider that block of 22nd Street, between Fair Oaks and Guerrero, to be part of Noe Valley. Others put it in the Mission. It's on the border, in any case.)

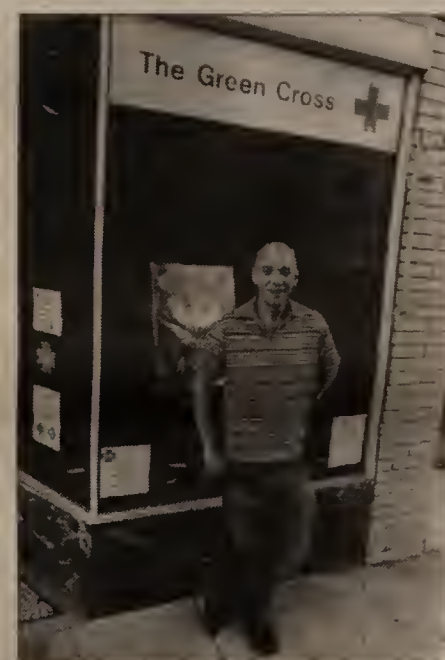
At the Green Cross, patients who take marijuana to soothe pain—from cancer, migraines, and a whole range of illnesses—can purchase as much as four ounces of pot at a time, an activity legalized in California with the passage of Proposition 215 in 1996.

But the Green Cross is not for the general public. Founder and president Kevin Reed says the nonprofit sells only to patients with a doctor's note on official letterhead. The prescription must also be "verifiable," he says, meaning that the Green Cross calls physicians to make sure customers are not recreational users looking to score.

Despite its limited audience, the Green Cross is likely to receive a warm welcome from Noe Valley residents. In the '96 election, some 88 percent of Noe Valley voters cast ballots in favor of Prop. 215, compared with 78 percent in all of San Francisco and 56 percent statewide.

In fact, in Reed's "guesstimation," about a third of his 60 regulars come from Noe Valley and environs.

"A lot of people on the street stopped in when we opened to say, 'Hey, welcome to the neighborhood,'" Reed says, adding that he tries to maintain good relation-



Kevin Reed opened the Green Cross, now one of 22 marijuana dispensaries in the city, at the end of July. Photo by Peter Orsi

ships with residents and nearby businesses. "We ask our neighbors once a week if they smell anything."

"Our main thing is to be as respectful as possible," says store manager Mari Savage-Everett. "We don't want to disturb our neighbors."

The California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) lists 21 other medical cannabis clubs in San Francisco, but the Green Cross is the first to set up shop near Noe Valley. Previously, the closest dispensary was the Compassion and Care Center at 14th and Church.

"It's something that was needed in the neighborhood," Savage-Everett says.

So far, the Green Cross is a small operation, averaging about 75 customers a day. Behind the barred door and velvety black curtain is a comfy, low-lit room with a white vinyl couch opposite a flat-screen TV. Clients choose their brand of bud from football-sized glass jars full of fragrant varieties: Tango Mango, Great White Shark, Wig Out, and White Russian. Prices run \$310 per ounce, or \$45 for an eighth. (According to Reed, the street price for an eighth is about \$50.)

The display case is full of THC-laced "edibles," including lollipops, "Fruity

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



## Take a Tree Tour

According to tree expert Mike Sullivan, Noe Valley has some of the top tree specimens in San Francisco, including this willowy pepper tree on Castro Street. To point out our leafy wonders, Sullivan, accompanied by his son Joseph and dog Jake, recently gave the *Noe Valley Voice* a tour of the neighborhood's urban forest. For the full scoop on our deepest roots, see page 15.

Photo by Pamela Gerard





**Heading East on 24th Street.** Two teens walk the downtown Noe Valley blocks toward home.

*Photo by Najib Joe Hakim*



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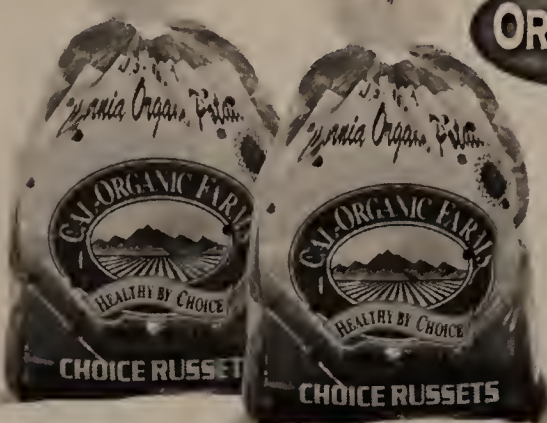
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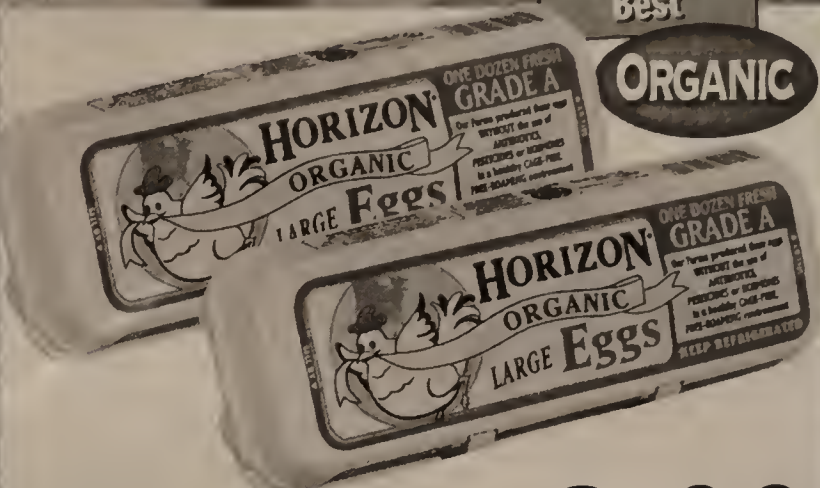
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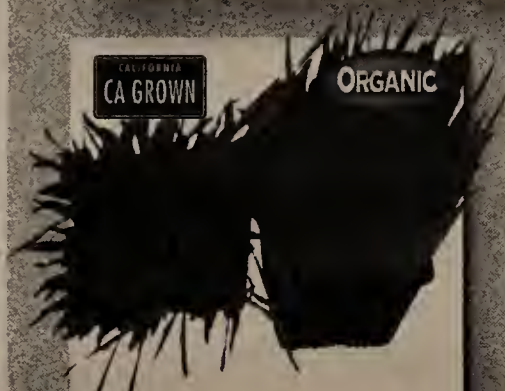


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CA GROWN

ORGANIC

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Organic  
Carrots  
Bunch

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With **CLUB** Save .40 bunch or More



CALIFORNIA  
CA GROWN

ORGANIC

Fresh Organic  
Earth Greens  
Baby Spinach  
5 oz. pkg.

\$6  
2 for

With **CLUB** Buy 2 Save 1.98 or More



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CA GROWN

ORGANIC

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Organic  
Red Cabbage

79¢  
lb.

With **CLUB** Save .50 per lb. or More



CALIFORNIA  
CA GROWN

ORGANIC

Fresh  
Organic  
Celery  
Bunch

99¢

With **CLUB** Save .30 bunch or More



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## LETTERS 37¢

### How About a Street Fair?

Editor:

I'm a local live music producer who has lived in Noe Valley since 1990. Every summer, I feel bad that every other neighborhood except ours hosts a street fair. I think it would be great to put one together and would be happy to help out.

Noe Valley needs to show off its style once in a while, and we don't have to organize our street fair like all the others if we want to make it different or quieter. One idea I had was to have it every other year so that it's more low-key.

If there are other Noe Valley residents who feel the same, drop me a line at the address below. Thanks.

Mark O'Hara  
437 29th Street #3  
San Francisco, CA 94131

E-mail: info@tornadotributes.com

### Be Positive, Not Poisonous

Editor:

I've been watching the battle over Real Food with increased dismay in the past year, but the letter from the anti-Neutraceutical group in your September issue put me over the top. The whole tone and approach has gotten poisonous, which none of us needs.

The closure of Real Food was a big blow to downtown Noe Valley, make no mistake. And the inaction of Neutraceutical and the questionable actions involving possible union-busting are signs of a bad corporate citizen. The poor internal condition of the building, however, shows the issue may not be as simple as the anti-Neutraceutical folks claim. Who knows? None of the principals will talk,

since the matter is under negotiation.

But really, who cares? Real Food was a super-expensive store that few residents could afford to shop at. Thanks to many people's efforts (particularly those who also have been consumed by the anti-Neutraceutical fervor), we have a solid and growing farmers' market, and Bell Market has stepped up its organic offerings greatly.

Let's support these two sources of organic food and simply ignore Real Food if and when it reopens. That'll take care of the Neutraceutical issue.

They'll leave for lack of business, and we'll give our money to the more reasonably priced farmers' market and neighborhood Bell. All that negative energy can be redirected to positive efforts that improve Noe Valley.

Galen Gruman  
24th Street

### Free Examiner Is Litter to Some

Editor:

As many Noe Valley residents know, the *San Francisco Examiner* has recently begun delivering its free paper to doorsteps in the neighborhood.

While the increased circulation may look good to the newspaper's advertisers, it looks terrible on our sidewalks, which are littered with the unread, plastic-wrapped papers.

One way to alleviate this problem is to call the *Examiner's* circulation desk and ask to cancel delivery to your home. They can be reached at 866-733-7323.

Alan Kram  
Cesar Chavez Street

### Leashes a Must at Noe Courts

Editor:

I am sure that it must be a mistake that the signs at Noe Courts park at Douglass and 24th state that dogs should be on leashes. Every day, many dogs run free and unleashed around the park. In fact, today one of them ran up to my twin infant's stroller and urinated next to it. The uncaring and indifferent owner simply stood by as if this were the most natural thing in the world. On other visits to the park, I have had unleashed dogs run right up to my babies while the oblivious owners did nothing.

I really hope that we can have a park in this neighborhood that can be enjoyed by everyone.

Ann Hack  
Noe Valley resident

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# NOE VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

## NVDC November 2 Election Endorsements

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### Federal Offices

*President* **John Kerry**

*Vice-President* **John Edwards**

*Senator* **Barbara Boxer**

### State Offices

*State Senator, District 3*

**Carole Migden**



*State Assembly, District 13*

**Mark Leno**



### State Propositions

<b>1A</b> Protection of Local Government Revenue	<b>NO ENDORSEMENT</b>
<b>59</b> Open Meetings	<b>YES</b>
<b>60</b> Candidates from Different Parties Compete in General Election	<b>YES</b>
<b>60A</b> Surplus Property for Debt Reduction	<b>YES</b>
<b>61</b> Bonds for Children's Hospital Projects	<b>YES</b>
<b>62</b> Closed General Election	<b>NO</b>
<b>63</b> Mental Health Services Expansion	<b>YES</b>
<b>64</b> Restricts Private Enforcement of Consumer Rights	<b>NO</b>
<b>65</b> Overly Restrictive Set-aside of Local Government Revenue	<b>NO</b>
<b>66</b> Sensible Limits on "Three Strikes" Law	<b>YES</b>
<b>67</b> Funding for Emergency Medical Services	<b>YES</b>
<b>68</b> Non-tribal Commercial Gambling Expansion	<b>NO</b>
<b>69</b> DNA Sampling	<b>NO</b>
<b>70</b> Tribal Gaming Compacts	<b>NO</b>
<b>71</b> Stem Cell Research	<b>YES</b>
<b>72</b> Health Care Coverage	<b>YES</b>

### Local Offices

*BART Board*

**Tom Radulovich**



*Community College Board*

**Natalie Berg**



**Milton Marks III**



**Julio Ramos**



**Rodel Rodis**



*Board of Education*

**Heather Hiles**



**Larry Kane**



**David Weiner**



**Jill Wynns**



### Local Propositions

<b>A</b> Affordable Housing Bond	<b>YES</b>
<b>B</b> Neighborhood Historic Resources Preservation Bond	<b>YES</b>
<b>C</b> Health Service System Reform	<b>YES</b>
<b>D</b> Miscellaneous Board of Supervisors Reforms	<b>YES</b>
<b>E</b> Retirement Benefits for Police and Firefighter Survivors	<b>YES</b>
<b>F</b> Non-Citizen Voting in School Board Elections	<b>YES</b>
<b>G</b> Health Plans for City Residents	<b>YES</b>
<b>H</b> Candlestick Park Naming Rights	<b>NO RECOMMENDATION</b>
<b>I</b> Office of Economic Analysis	<b>NO RECOMMENDATION</b>
<b>J</b> Sales Tax Increase to Prevent Further Budget Cuts	<b>YES</b>
<b>K</b> Business Tax	<b>YES</b>
<b>L</b> Diversion of Hotel Tax	<b>NO</b>
<b>N</b> Statement in Favor of Ending Iraq Occupation	<b>YES</b>
<b>O</b> Use of Sales Tax for Anti-Poverty Programs	<b>YES</b>
<b>AA</b> BART Bond for Seismic Retrofit of Tunnel	<b>YES</b>

**The Noe Valley Democratic Club  
meets on the third Wednesday  
of each month at 7:30 pm**

**Noe Valley Ministry • 1021 Sanchez Street  
for more information:  
rafaelmandelman@yahoo.com**



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season 2

# Noe Valley Chamber Music

**Opening Concert & Silent Auction  
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2004 / 05

Let music's light in.

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November 21

**Glowing Combinations: Steven Dibner & Friends**  
Bassoonist Steven Dibner and SF Symphony string players play music of Paganini, Spizak, Welcher, and Mozart.

December 5

**Encore, Ancora!**

Conductor Robert Geary brings his elite young women's vocal ensemble to perform music of Faure, Chihara, Wings, Mechem, and Poulenc.

January 16

**Mezza Voce: Music from the Americas**

Charismatic string bass virtuoso Richard Worn brings his Worn Chamber to Noe Valley for the first time. Music of Felciano, Riegger, Revueltas, and Ginastera.

February 6

**PlayDate with pianist Sarah Cahill**

A light-filled musical evocation of childhood, with music by Schumann's, Debussy, John Kennedy, Lois Vierk, and David Van Tieghem.

March 6

**Light out of Darkness: Abel/Steinberg Duo**

Acclaimed violinist David Abel and pianist Julie Steinberg will play Shostakovich, Schubert and Mozart.

April 17

**Lighting the Way: TRIAD Clarinet Trio**

Cellist Emil Miland, clarinetist Cary Bell, and pianist Bryndon Hassman play music of Beethoven, Brahms, Shinji Eshima and Peter Lieberman.

May 22

**True Divided Light: Walther/Sutherland**

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# Noe Valley at High Risk in an Earthquake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

family, and your neighbors.

On Oct. 17, 1989, Noe Valley survived the 7.1 magnitude Loma Prieta quake with no major injuries and little damage. According to the November 1989 *Noe Valley Voice*, residents lost power, some brick chimneys and facades were damaged, and several storefront windows were shattered—but on the whole, the neighborhood made it through relatively unscathed. Such was not the case in the Marina, where several buildings collapsed and residents resorted to hauling hoses from the fireboat *Phoenix* after fire hydrants lost water pressure.

Many Noe Valleyans believe that—unlike the Marina, which is built on landfill—our hilly, rocky neighborhood is safe from major damage. But a recent report on San Francisco's earthquake risk, prepared for the city's Department of Building Inspection by the Applied Technology Council of Redwood, Calif., casts doubt on such optimism.

According to the report, Noe Valley—

along with the Castro, Glen Park, and the Mission—is vulnerable to heavy damage and permanent loss of homes. A magnitude 7.2 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault, located near Lake Merced, could damage 20 percent of the homes in these neighborhoods, with economic losses of \$1.2 billion.

In making their assessment, the engineers considered several factors besides soil composition, including the age and design of buildings. A major risk factor in Noe Valley is the number of homes with “soft stories”—those built above large open spaces, such as garages, which are prone to collapse. Luckily, the risk of earthquake damage can be reduced through seismic-strengthening measures such as bolting homes to their foundations and adding shear walls and bracing.

## NERT Class This Month

Mayor Gavin Newsom has made emergency preparedness—whether for a natural disaster or a terrorist attack—a top priority. To that end, the city has created a new emergency operations plan and will spend more than \$60 million in federal homeland security grants on stepped-up readiness measures. Nevertheless, officials say city services will be overwhelmed in the event of a major earthquake, and residents should be prepared to fend for themselves for at least 72 hours.

One of the best ways to learn the necessary skills is by taking the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training. Since the San Francisco Fire Department established the NERT program in 1989, an estimated 12,000 to 14,000 city residents have been trained, including some 2,000 in Noe Valley.

“The best thing the public can do is to take care of themselves,” said Annemarie Conroy, newly appointed head of the San Francisco Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, at a meeting of the city's Disaster Council last month. “It's people's civic duty, so the city can focus on helping those who most need help.”

The 20-hour NERT training includes earthquake awareness, hazard mitigation, how to shut off utilities, basic fire suppression, emergency triage and disaster medicine, light search and rescue, dealing with terrorism, and team organization and management. The final class gives trainees the opportunity to put their new skills to the test by extinguishing small fires, searching a darkened room filled with obstacles, and practicing triage and first-aid skills on volunteer “victims,” made up to look injured.

In the event of a disaster, after ensuring the safety of their family and immediate neighbors, NERT members are asked to gather at their neighborhood staging area—which in Noe Valley is at James Lick Middle School—to help with the larger rescue and recovery effort.

“Participation in neighborhood teams is encouraged, but individuals taking the class so that they can help themselves during the first 72 hours after a disaster is the most important thing,” says SFFD NERT coordinator Lt. Erica Arteseros. “During these lean times, the city is cutting services, which will add to the difficulty of getting city services after a natural or man-made disaster.”

If you're reading this in early October, there's still time to sign up for the next Noe Valley/Castro NERT training, which will take place on three consecutive Saturdays, Oct. 9, 16, and 23. The free classes, taught by SFFD officers, will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond Street at 24th. To register, call 970-2024. For more information, visit [www.sfgov.org/sffdnert](http://www.sfgov.org/sffdnert) or call 970-2022.

“Do it for yourself,” urges Noe Valley NERT coordinator Maxine Fasulis. “It doesn't cost anything but a little time, and you'll walk away with a whole lot of information and skills you wouldn't have had otherwise.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 2:** Noe Valley NERT neighborhood drill. Contact Maxine Fasulis at 641-5536 or [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com)

**Oct. 9-10:** Fleet Week Community Disaster Preparedness Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Marina Green (Marina Blvd and Scott Street).

**Oct. 9, 16 & 23:** Noe Valley/Castro NERT training. The course is 20 hours spread out over three days, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond Street at 24th. Registration required: 970-2024. For info, contact Maxine Fasulis at [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com).

**Oct. 17:** Commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake, the 50th anniversary of the fireboat *Phoenix*, and the 15th anniversary of NERT. Fireboat tours 2 to 4 p.m.; commemoration program 4 to 6 p.m. Marina Green. For more information, see [www.sfpheonix.com](http://www.sfpheonix.com).

## SAN FRANCISCO'S EMERGENCY RESOURCES

**Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT):** [www.sfgov.org/sffdnert](http://www.sfgov.org/sffdnert). Noe Valley NERT Coordinator: Maxine Fasulis, [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com) or 641-5536.

**S.F. Office of Emergency Services & Homeland Security:** [www.sfgov.org/oes](http://www.sfgov.org/oes) or 558-2700. Site features tips on what to do before, during, and after a disaster.

**Disaster Registry Program:** Department of Public Health registry for seniors and disabled persons who may need extra assistance during an emergency. Contact Ann Stangby at [ann.stangby@sfdph.org](mailto:ann.stangby@sfdph.org) or 355-2605.

**Auxiliary Communication System:** a group of ham radio operators who provide emergency communications assistance. Contact [www.sfac.org](http://www.sfac.org) or 558-2717.

**American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter:** offers first-aid and CPR classes, operates emergency shelters and relief services, and trains volunteers to help during disasters. [www.bay-area-redcross.org](http://www.bay-area-redcross.org) or 427-8000.

**Motorcycle Emergency Response Corps (MERC):** motorcycle riders who assist SFFD and NERT by transporting messages, supplies, and rescuers when road traffic is impeded. [www.mercurysf.org](http://www.mercurysf.org).

## Step-by-Step Earthquake Prep

### Before:

- Prepare an emergency kit containing water, food, flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, first-aid kit and medications, blankets, spare clothes, cash, and other basic supplies to get through the first 72 hours. Keep emergency supplies at home, at work, and in your car.
- Prepare a household emergency plan, including a place outside your home to reunite. Identify an out-of-state emergency contact person. Make plans for your pets, which are not allowed in emergency shelters. Review your plan and conduct drills each year.
- Learn when and how to shut off gas, water, and electricity, and have the necessary tools on hand.
- Keep an “ABC” fire extinguisher in an accessible location and learn how to use it. Make sure smoke detectors are working and replace batteries every six months.
- Store copies of important documents in a secure location outside your home.
- Survey your home for hazards, including hanging objects, unsecured furniture, and hazardous or flammable materials.

### During:

- If indoors, stay there. Drop to the floor. Get under a table or desk, hold on, and protect your head with your arms. Avoid exterior walls, windows, hanging objects, and tall furniture. Do not use elevators.
- If outdoors, get into an open area away from buildings, trees, and power lines.
- If driving, pull over in a safe area away from overpasses and power lines. Stay in your car until the shaking stops.

### After:

- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Check for gas and water leaks. If damage is present, turn off gas and report leaks to PG&E. Check your home for cracks and other damage using a flashlight, not candles or matches.
- Listen to the radio (KCBS 740 AM) for news and instructions.
- Avoid using the telephone to keep lines open for emergency communications.
- Avoid driving to keep streets clear for emergency vehicles.

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## 24th Street Project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fundraising for the baskets.

"One idea is an Adopt-a-Basket program," Eiland says. "Also, we're hoping to get some licensed contractors to volunteer to do the installation, because that's not part of the costs."

### Fairy Lights in the Trees

Another beautification idea, put forth by A Girl and Her Dog shop owner Annette Hickey, is to hang fairy lights in the trees, "like the ones on Union Street," she says.

Meanwhile, Hickey, along with Diana Barrand, who co-owns Le Zinc French Bistro, are looking into the news rack situation. Barrand points out that there seem to be newspaper and flyer dispensers every few yards along 24th Street. She would like to see them clustered at the street corners or at least kept in better condition.

"Some people use them for garbage," Barrand says. "We just would like to see them tidied up."

To that end, Hickey has contacted the San Francisco Department of Public Works, which is responsible for citing the companies that maintain the news racks.

Hickey hopes that by making 24th Street a cleaner, more desirable place to shop, everyone will enjoy the new environment and merchants will see an increase in business as well.

### And Eventually a Benefit District

That's also the goal of another member of the group, Friends of Noe Valley President Debra Niemann. Niemann has been spearheading the Project's drive to designate 24th Street, and possibly Church Street down to 30th Street, a Community Benefit District (CBD).

A CBD is a non-profit special assessment district that is created to provide services the city may not be willing to pay for, such as flower baskets, benches, sidewalk cleaning, and additional trash receptacles.



At the request of Friends of Noe Valley and local boosters in the newly formed 24th Street Project, the Neighborhood Parks Trust staged a Sept. 11 concert and picnic in Douglass Playground, attended by more than 250 people.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

"Property owners as a group decide on the level of services they would like and the amount they're willing to pay for them," Niemann explains. "Owners with commercial tenants may be able to pass through the [CBD] cost to their tenants."

"It's like taxing yourself," adds May, who is also on the board of Friends of Noe Valley. "Several neighborhoods in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Oakland, such as Montclair and Rockridge, are doing it. Those are neighborhoods that are similar to Noe Valley."

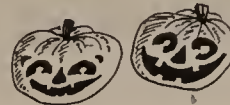
In order to form a CBD, 50 percent plus one of the property owners must vote in favor. The Board of Supervisors then needs to give its approval. If that succeeds, then a nonprofit like the 24th Street Project would manage the CBD and its funds, May says.

Before any of that happens, though, a feasibility study, which costs around \$15,000, must be conducted. That could take a year. So far, Supervisor Bevan Dufty has secured \$7,500 from the Mayor's Office of Economic Development to help offset the study's cost. Niemann says Friends of Noe Valley, the

Merchants Association, and possibly the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club will try to raise the other half.

She and May think a CBD in Noe Valley is definitely feasible. Other neighborhoods are doing it, they say. "The Castro is far along into its assessment phase. So is Lower Polk [Street], and the Mission is working on it," says May.

For Eiland, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1981, a makeover of the block is a long-held dream. "For years and years I've wanted to find a way to give 24th Street a more cohesive look, but not a cookie-cutter one," he says. "When people think of Noe Valley, we want them to think of a sweet, pleasant strolling and shopping experience." □



## Who to Call at City Hall

Is that streetlight still out at the corner? Or perhaps your building just got hit with graffiti for the second time in a week. Whatever the problem, don't seethe. Take action. Here's a list of phone numbers that might help.

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Street Lighting and Repair  
415-554-0730

**Graffiti**  
415-241-WASH

**Illegal Dumping (litter, dog poop)**  
415-28-CLEAN (282-5326)

**Potholes**  
415-695-2100 (695-2020 after 5 p.m.)  
potholes@ci.sf.ca.us

**Tree Hazards and Trimming**  
Bureau of Street Environmental Services  
415-695-2017  
www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfdpw/trees

**Lost or Injured Animals**  
Animal Care and Control:  
415-554-9405

**Sewer Odor**  
24-Hour Odor Hotline: 415-695-2096

**Traffic Signals Out**  
415-550-2736

**Aggressive Panhandling**  
415-553-0123

**Undergrounding, Light Fixtures**  
Department of Public Works  
415-554-4860  
undergrounding@sfgov.org

### Other Handy Numbers:

**Parking and Traffic Department**  
415-554-7275

**Supervisor Bevan Dufty**  
415-554-6968

**Mayor Gavin Newsom**  
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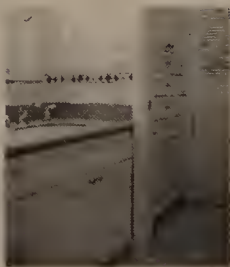
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## Local Marijuana Dispensary Opens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pebble treats," and more traditional goodies like brownies, cupcakes, and chocolate chip cookies—all prepared with Ghirardelli chocolate, Reed says.

Two doors down, the Green Cross sells paintings and other works by local artists, in a second storefront.

On a recent afternoon, a couple dozen clients drop in to buy marijuana. Many stay to socialize, smoke, lounge on the sofa, and watch music videos.

Account executive Jack Clifford, 42, a San Francisco transplant currently living in Redwood City, says the atmosphere is why he's been a regular at the Green Cross since it opened. At other clubs, "they're grumpy and they're just 'get in, get out, and don't let the door hit you on the ass.' It's nice and friendly here."

Page, a 32-year-old massage therapist who declined to give her last name, says she smokes marijuana to relieve knee pain resulting from a motorcycle accident and subsequent surgery. "The doctor gave me Vicodin," the Haight-Ashbury resident says, "but I couldn't tolerate it. I couldn't read or write or remember conversations. I know I get a little out of it on



Kevin Reed shows off some of the exotic pot varieties available at the Green Cross to those with a doctor's prescription.  
Photo by Maureen McGettigan

marijuana, but it's so much better."

Reed, himself a medical marijuana patient who smokes every day to relieve "chronic back pain" brought on by a car accident 12 years ago, agrees.

"There are a lot of doctors who want to hand you a bottle of pills," he says, "but I'd rather take a natural remedy. And who

wants to be addicted to pain pills? Coming off that medicine was the worst experience of my life—the sweats, the fevers, everything. Marijuana is the only thing that has ever really relieved my pain."

According to Reed, the best-selling items at the Green Cross are the edibles—"they definitely help you sleep"—and the

## Noe Library Set To Close in 8 Months

By Erin O'Briant

The long-anticipated temporary closing of the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library is set for May 2005, says West District Manager Katie Lynds of the San Francisco Public Library. The branch will be closed for about two years for major renovations. Plans for the branch include seismic retrofitting, making the building wheelchair-accessible, and rewiring for faster Internet use. The renovation is being financed with a voter-approved city bond that passed in November 2000.

Meanwhile, library staff are soliciting community feedback. Recently, they conducted a survey of Noe Valley branch patrons, to find out what would be most helpful during the shutdown. "Most people were interested in extended hours at other branches and in bookmobile service," says Lynds, who oversees several branches, including the Noe Valley Library. "We will have both. We'll also be working on providing continuing programs for children, like story time, at an alternate location in the neighborhood."

The bookmobile will be in the neighborhood four days a week for about three hours at a time, but Lynds doesn't yet have the schedule. Library staff and users are trying to figure out where to park the bookmobile and are looking for a separate venue for Noe Valley's preschool story time and infant lapsits.

The survey also asked library users if they would be interested in paying a small fee to have books delivered to their home while the branch is closed. "About 70 percent of people were not interested in that service," Lynds says. "But that doesn't mean we won't have it."

The final results of the survey have not yet been tallied, according to Lynds.

If you'd like to get involved or share your opinions, call the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library at 355-5707 or stop by 451 Jersey Street near Diamond Street for more information. □



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pre-rolled joints. He points out that some clients, such as arthritis patients, may be physically unable to roll their own joints; others simply like the convenience.

"I almost always buy pre-rolls from them," Page says, "because I'm always on the go."

And the marijuana-laced brownies? They look delicious, she admits—"but I don't want the calories." □

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# Trees—Noe's Got Some Beauties

By Corrie M. Anders

On the sidewalk in front of a chocolate brown duplex on Castro Street, a few steps from the 24th Street strip, is probably the most magnificent sweet shade tree (*Hymenosporum flavum*) in all of San Francisco. It is majestic in its leafy fullness, with a crown rising just above the roofline of the two-story residence. It is also exotic and sensual, with perfumed clusters of yellow blossoms that hint at romance and love.

"Smell this," said Mike Sullivan, as he plucked a bouquet of low-hanging blooms and offered it to two companions. "It has the most amazing fragrance."

He gave the flowers a gentle squeeze, and the soft scent of orange blossoms and jasmine and honeysuckle floated through the air.

"This tree is the biggest and the best of its kind in San Francisco," said Sullivan, a tree expert and longtime volunteer with Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF). "But anybody walking by would never know there's anything special about this tree."

Sullivan, 45, hopes his newly published book will rectify that and give local residents a better appreciation of the trees that adorn our city streets. *The Trees of San Francisco* features the city's best species and provides street addresses so that they can be easily located.

## A Tree Hugger's Paradise

The book highlights 213 different trees that Sullivan says are the best of the best in San Francisco. Nearly 20 of them are rooted in Noe Valley.

Unlike some other neighborhoods, Noe Valley is full of trees. There are trees that delight the senses and trees that buckle the sidewalks. There are immigrant trees and California natives. There are mystery trees and trees so commonplace they don't rate a mention in Sullivan's book.

Sullivan frequently leads walking tours in San Francisco. At the moment, Noe Valley is not on any of his special routes. However, he designed a mini-tour last month for a *Voice* reporter and photographer. Sullivan, a San Francisco corporate attorney with Howard Rice Associates, brought along his 7-month-old son Joseph and their mixed-breed dog, Jake.

## Sweet or Peppery?

The sweet shade tree in front of 1230 Castro Street was the first stop. The na-

tive Australian tree was planted about 20 years ago as an experiment to see how well it would thrive in Noe Valley—quite well, thank you. In fact, in Sullivan's opinion, the tree could live another 60 years.

"I've never seen one as big as this in San Francisco," he said. "I've wondered why it does so well in Noe Valley and has not done so well in other parts of the city."

Sullivan strolled a few steps further up Castro Street and paused under a California pepper tree. It is not San Francisco's finest; they can be found at 322 28th and 4019 26th Street. But the Castro Street version is representative of one of Noe Valley's trendiest trees.

"For some reason, you see more of them here than anywhere else in San Francisco," Sullivan said.

Despite its name, the California pepper (*Schinus molle*) is a native of the Andes in South America. Spanish missionaries



Mike Sullivan pictured this aromatic tree at 1230 Castro Street in his guide *The Trees of San Francisco* because it's the finest example of a sweet shade tree in the city. Seven-month-old Joseph, who accompanied his dad on a Noe Valley tree tour, agrees: the tree smells good!



California pepper trees, like this lovely specimen at 4019 26th Street, are not native trees. Ironically, they are transplants from South America.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

brought it here in 1804, during their period of colonization. The pepper tree's long narrow leaves and drooping limbs create a willowy effect that seems stolen from a Savannah, Ga., landscape. A graceful, arching shape, dressed up with clusters of red berries that can be ground into peppercorn, makes it one of the city's most beautiful trees.

"The cliché of urban living is to have one of these drooping over the back patio," laughed Sullivan.

## Where Once a Silk Oak Stood

Two blocks away, at 601 Diamond Street on the corner of 23rd Street, Sullivan wanted to show off an impressive example of a silk oak whose picture was featured in his book. The species (*Grevillea robusta*) is a shade tree that grows quickly to huge proportions, with fernlike leaves up to 12 inches long.

"Oh, my God, the tree is gone," Sullivan said as he rounded the corner of the intersection. "What happened?"

There was a large hole in the sidewalk where the 40-foot silk oak once stood, its branches extending all the way from the cars parked at the curb to the exterior wall of a two-story residence on Diamond Street.

Sullivan surmised that the tree, another Australian native, was deliberately taken out, because "it was probably breaking the sidewalk," forcing an unlucky homeowner to make costly repairs. He pointed to a bulge in the sidewalk caused by stout tree roots.

Sullivan's speculation was instantly confirmed by nearby resident Mary Haas. Haas said the tree's destructiveness was the main reason her landlords removed it a few weeks earlier.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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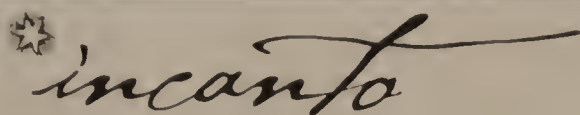
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## Our Trees Are Topnotch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Not only was the sprawling tree a hazard—the low limbs often forced passersby to duck, and strong winds frequently left the sidewalk littered with broken branches—but it almost filled up the huge picture window of her first-floor unit, she said.

Still, Haas finds the tree's absence a mixed blessing, since the shade tree helped maintain a comfortable temperature in her unit. "Now, without the tree, it's too hot," Haas said.

Sullivan, a certified arborist, nodded knowingly.

### Sullivan's Outdoor Classroom

Sullivan is a New Yorker who delighted in the Adirondack forests of maples, birches, oaks, and other prestigious specimens. He moved to San Francisco in 1984 and, taken with the variety of trees in the city, joined FUF as a volunteer a few years later.

"I was spending a lot of Saturdays out in the neighborhoods planting trees. I grew up on the East Coast, and all the trees [here] were alien to me," he said. "I became interested to learn where they came from and why they adapted so well in San Francisco."

He learned a lot. He also began orga-



A hole in the sidewalk at Diamond and 23rd marks the spot where a silk oak once towered. Unfortunately, the tree buckled the sidewalk and had to be removed.

nizing tree plantings in his Cole Valley neighborhood. Sullivan created a web site, [www.sftrees.com](http://www.sftrees.com), after so many people began asking for his help in figuring out the best species to plant in their neighborhoods. His book, published by Pomegranate of Petaluma and available at Noe Valley's Cover to Cover bookstore, was a natural follow-up.

He says San Francisco was a tree-chal-



The swamp mahogany trees at 905-07 Diamond Street near Jersey may be the only ones in San Francisco outside of Golden Gate Park.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

lenged city until the late 1960s and early '70s, when the city embarked on a campaign to plant trees in most neighborhoods. FUF took over when the city effort ran into budget troubles in 1981, and that same year the group staked its first tree in Noe Valley.

"It's a very well-treed neighborhood," said Sullivan. "Some trees that will do well in Noe Valley won't do well in the Sunset or Richmond. It may be the soil. It may be that it's a little less windy than in some other parts of the city."

It helps that Noe Valley is "a reasonably liberal environmentalist neighborhood. Your average Noe Valleyan is more likely to be a tree hugger than the rest of the city."

### Our Share of Mystery Trees

Which may be the reason three swamp mahogany trees grow at 905-07 Diamond Street, near Jersey. Sullivan thinks they are the only specimens outside of Golden Gate Park—and he isn't sure how they got to Noe Valley.

"It's a mystery from the past," he said of the swamp trees, which are members of the eucalyptus family. "Oftentimes, someone with an interest in plants who wants something exotic will go to a nursery and say, 'Give me something unusual.' Then they move, and it gets lost in time."

And speaking of mysteries, Sullivan says there are at least 20 trees in the city whose identities baffle him. The list was even longer before he got some help last winter from Scot Medbury, executive director of Strybing Arboretum.

"We got in the car and drove around, and he helped identify trees," said Sullivan.

Five of the mystery trees are in Noe Valley. Sullivan is particularly challenged by one in front of 3770 24th Street near Church Street. "It's a eucalyptus of some kind, but not a common one," Sullivan said, and probably has Australian origins.

For the record, the purple-leaf plum and the Japanese flowering cherry are the two most popular tree species in Noe Valley, as well as in San Francisco. (For a good local example of the purple plum, go to 495 Eureka Street at 25th.)

They've become so overplanted, however, that a few arborists consider them the "plain Janes" of trees, despite their profusion of colorful flowers in the spring.

Sullivan doesn't mind them—he is a fairly laidback guy. But he does get irritated at homeowners who plant flowers at the base of their sidewalk trees. Flora such as lavender, ivy, and rosemary can rob young trees of the water and nutrients they need to thrive, he said.

As the tour ended, Sullivan pointed out one such tree surrounded by ornamental flowers. All he could do was sigh at people's well-intentioned but misguided handiwork.

"I gently chastise them, but they don't always take my advice," Sullivan said. "I've gotten jaded, so I don't do it as frequently."

Instead, he extols the virtues of trees—both native and immigrant species—because San Francisco would be a dreary place without them.

One needs only look at the barren Marin Headlands just across the Golden Gate Bridge, said Sullivan, to be reminded "what San Francisco looked like" not so long ago. □



### The Neighborhood's Best Specimens

Noe Valley residents can find some of the best trees in Noe Valley just outside their front door. Here's a sampling of species championed in Mike Sullivan's 2004 book, *The Trees of San Francisco*:

*Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle): 3580 21st St. at Church; 4147 26th St. at Noe

*Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple): 494 Day St. at Castro

*Acer sacharinum* (Silver Maple): 499 Eureka St. at 22nd

*Calocedrus decurrens* (Incense Cedar): 1375 Sanchez St. at 27th; 514-18 Clipper at Diamond

*Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor): 3828 Cesar Chavez St. at Dolores

*Crataegus phaenopyrum* (Washington Thorn): 247 28th St. at Church

*Eucalyptus maculata* (Spotted Gum): downhill from 514-18 Clipper at Diamond

*Eucalyptus robusta* (Swamp Mahogany): 905-07 Diamond St. at Jersey (three trees)

*Hymenosporum flavum* (Sweet Shade): 1230-32 Castro St. at 24th

*Pittosporum rhombifolium* (Queensland Pittosporum): 1295-97 Noe St. at 26th (second tree from corner)

*Prunus serrulata* (Japanese Flowering Cherry): 1008-10 Noe St. at 23rd

*Quercus agrifolia* (Coast Live Oak): 1514 Sanchez St. at 28th

*Raphiolepis indica* (Indian Hawthorn): 1298 Church St. at 25th; 3451 22nd St. at Fair Oaks

*Schinus molle* (California Pepper): 322 28th St. at Sanchez; 4019 26th St. at Sanchez

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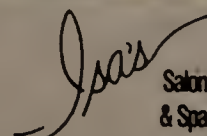


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# Halloween Casts Its Spell on the Neighborhood

By Laura McHale Holland

Noe Valley has much to offer on Halloween, including a resident fire-eater. His name is Owen Baker-Flynn, and for the past 15 years, he's been captivating pint-sized ghouls, damsels, wizards, pirates, skeletons, cheerleaders, ninjas—and their parents—on Oct. 31.

This year is no exception. Baker-Flynn will be eating as well as juggling fire on the 3800 block of 22nd Street between Noe and Castro streets, beginning at around 6:30 p.m. and continuing until the crowds peter out.

"My neighbors are pretty into it," notes Baker-Flynn, who is a professional entertainer, husband to Alvarado teacher Laurie Baker-Flynn, and a father of two.

"They start asking in September, 'Are you practicing? Are you ready?' When I started doing it, I didn't think I'd be doing it 15 years later. I just wanted to be around for my kids' trick-or-treating, but now I don't dare take a gig on Halloween night. This is my gig."

Baker-Flynn is uncertain whether he'll be dressed in black or in one of his colorful costumes, but the fire should make him easy to spot. Meanwhile, you can find him at [www.ob-f.com](http://www.ob-f.com).

## No Ordinary Haunting Here

Another must-see on Halloween is Hoffman the Haunted Street, now in its 25th year. Organized by "Haunted House Lady" Marilyn Lucas and her many helpers, the whimsy will be swirling along Hoffman Avenue all the way from 25th Street to the firehouse at the corner of Hoffman and Alvarado.

"We'll have witches with black cats, brewing up some Halloween fun together, including magically transforming people with our spells," Lucas promises.

The enchantment will begin at 5 p.m. and will run until about 8 p.m. The first 300 children who brave the most haunted house on the street will receive treats.

## Creepy Stories Wanted

Cover to Cover at 1307 Castro Street is also hoping to add to the spookiness on Halloween night with a haunted Halloween tour of the 'hood. The staff seek stories about neighborhood "ghoulies, ghosties, and other things that go bump in the Noe Valley night." Call 282-8080 or e-mail [covertocover@juno.com](mailto:covertocover@juno.com) if you can contribute any spine-tingling tales.

## Rummage for Your Costume

Searching for the right costume? The Onc Stop Party Shop, at the corner of 28th and Church streets, is chock full of costumes and props guaranteed to bring out the inner goblin in people of all ages.

Just for Fun (3982 24th Street) is also loaded with Halloween goodies. "We've got headdresses and masks, goofy glasses, and silly things. People can make themselves up to be scary, or sweet, or fun," says David Eiland, one of the store's owners. "We've even got vampire baby pacifiers for the little ones, and fake Billy Bob-brand teeth for people who want ugly teeth." (We'll be right over.)

If you are more of a do-it-yourself costume maker and party planner, two garage sales happening this month at the Noe Valley Ministry (1021 Sanchez Street) might provide just the duds you need.

First, the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School will spread out many bundles of used clothing, toys, books, and household items at its mega-family garage sale on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Then on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Ministry will host its

own flea market and rummage sale, featuring equally huge mounds of clothes, books, records, CDs, kitchen gadgets, and furniture. There will also be refreshments and baked goods. If you have stuff to contribute to the flea market, phone 282-2317 to arrange for a pickup on Friday afternoon, Oct. 22.

## Horses and Fire Trucks

Once again, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association will herald the harvest season with its annual Hayride and Sidewalk Sale. The event will be on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The hay-filled, horse-drawn wagon will pick up riders—both young and old—at Walgreen's on Castro near Jersey, then roll down 24th Street to Church. Then it will turn right on Church and loop back up Jersey to Castro, where treats, donated by Walgreen's and Noe Valley Bakery, will await the riders.

This year, there will also be firetrucks on display on 24th Street, as well as children's activities in the morning at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market. And as usual, local merchants will be passing out candy to scores of masked and painted gremlins on Halloween. Since the holiday falls on a Sunday, the shops will dole out the treats on Friday, Oct. 29 (when the school kids flood 24th Street), as well as on Halloween itself.

## Fortunes Foretold

To get everyone in a properly jittery mood, and to give tykes a chance to make use of their fancy costumes, Glitter and Razz Productions is holding a Halloween Fair on Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street (near 22nd Street), starting at 1 p.m.

The fair will begin with storytelling



Owen Baker-Flynn may or may not be dressed as a dragon this Halloween, but he will be breathing fire for his neighbors on 22nd Street, starting at 6:30 p.m. Photo by Pamela Gerard

and fortune-telling by Madame Razz. She hails from Ireland and has traveled the world swapping fortunes for stories. This is actually part of a series of family entertainment events running from Oct. 16 through Dec. 11. Tickets are \$8 for kids and \$10 for adults. For more details, call 759-5765 or visit [glitterandrazz.com](http://glitterandrazz.com).

## Day of the Dead

On Saturday, Oct. 30, the Mission Library, on 24th near Valencia, is putting the spotlight on the Day of the Dead, a holiday celebrated widely in Mexico. At noon, Anita De Lucio-Brock will show people of all ages how to make Day of the Dead altars. After that, Elizabeth McCarthy and Company will do a sugar skull demonstration. Sugar skull is a traditional craft associated with the Day of the Dead.

"The belief is that on November 1 and

2 each year, the dead come back to visit the living," says Ana-Elba Pavon, children's services manager at the Mission Library. "The idea is to have some of their favorite items here available to them. So, if the altar is for someone in the family who passed away during the year, you might put their picture there and their favorite foods, coffee, or drinks. And you decorate with bright colors and flowers—the marigold is the flower of the dead."

Pavon emphasizes that the Day of the Dead is a happy occasion. "It's not scary like Halloween. It dates back to the Aztecs, who believed death is not a bad thing. It's just a natural cycle of life."

Call 355-2828 for more information and reservations, which are highly recommended. These are just some of the treats in store this month. The tricks are up to you. □



As in past years, the mad hatters who run Noe Valley shops and businesses will be dressing up and handing out treats to all the princesses, wizards, and even witches who come by in costume on Friday, Oct. 29, or on Halloween day (the following Sunday). Photo by Pamela Gerard

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**Noe Valley Beauty.** This Sanchez Street Victorian features stained glass.

*Photo by Jack Tipple*

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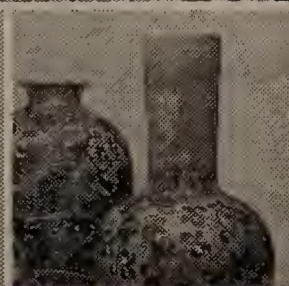
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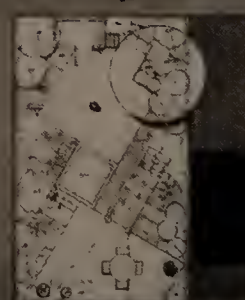


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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## \$1 Million Homes Selling Like Hotcakes

By Corrie M. Anders

The real estate bubble in Noe Valley continues its amazing puff-up, with nary a hatpin in sight. Home shoppers purchased 13 single-family properties in August, the majority of them costing at least \$1 million. The August sales, one fewer than the 14 homes that changed hands the previous month, are part of a two-year hot streak in Noe Valley, with homes selling almost as soon as they come on the market. Buyers also snapped up 10 condominiums in August, three more than in July. And shoppers looking for a less expensive alternative to homes and condos grabbed eight flats—continuing robust sales of small buildings that owners can share as tenants-in-common (TICs). “It’s just astounding,” says Randall Kostick, sales manager at Zephyr Real Estate on 24th Street. His office provides

monthly sales data to the *Voice*. Kostick says there was an increase in homes for sale this summer, a boost that usually puts a crimp in price spikes. “But there was such a backlog of buyers,” the properties were quickly “gobbled up.” The result: bidding wars that saw buyers on average pay a remarkable 16 percent more than the asking price. Kostick notes that 11 of the single-family homes sold above the asking price, while two sold exactly at the price sellers requested. The most dramatic example of over-bidding was a house listed in the mid-\$800,000 range. It sold for \$1.3 million, or 50 percent more than the asking price. In all, eight of the 13 homes sold for \$1 million or more. Kostick says one reason for the frenzied bidding is that some sellers have changed their sales strategy. In the past, they would list their properties higher than the desired price in order to leave themselves room to negotiate downward. Now, he says, “sellers have gotten wise to the idea that they can list a property conservatively, and that draws a whole lot of attention. When you’re working with a crowd, you can get a much better price.” The availability of relatively cheap mortgage money also remains a big factor in the hot market. “Though interest rates have bounced around and have risen a little,” Kostick says, “it’s not enough to

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
August 2004	13	\$638,000	\$1,558,888	\$1,107,838	34	116%
July 2004	14	\$722,000	\$1,250,000	\$984,500	34	110%
August 2003	11	\$682,000	\$1,475,000	\$1,013,091	39	105%
Condominiums						
August 2004	10	\$590,000	\$1,155,000	\$833,500	24	110%
July 2004	7	\$595,000	\$1,115,000	\$800,300	25	109%
August 2003	8	\$592,000	\$1,082,400	\$775,050	26	106%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
August 2004	8	\$927,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,244,625	45	112%
July 2004	6	\$770,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,160,000	48	110%
August 2003	7	\$676,000	\$1,635,000	\$1,053,714	32	101%
5+ unit buildings						
August 2004	0	—	—	—	—	—
July 2004	0	—	—	—	—	—
August 2003	1	\$1,580,000	\$1,580,000	\$1,580,000	41	88%

\* Data is supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyr-re.com](http://www.zephyr-re.com)) and based on all Noe Valley home sales recorded during the month. “Noe Valley” for the purposes of this survey is the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. NVA 10/04

### Noe Valley Rents\*

Apartment Size	Average Rents (April-June 2004)	Average Rents a Year Ago (April-June 2003)	% Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Studio	\$ 1,062 / mo.	\$ 1,028 / mo.	+ 3.3%
1 bedroom	1,425 / mo.	1,456 / mo.	- 2.1%
2 bedrooms	2,086 / mo.	2,098 / mo.	- 0.6%
3 or more bedrooms	2,580 / mo.	2,536 / mo.	+ 1.7%

\*Source: Rent Tech, Inc. ([www.renttech.com](http://www.renttech.com)).

NVV 10/04

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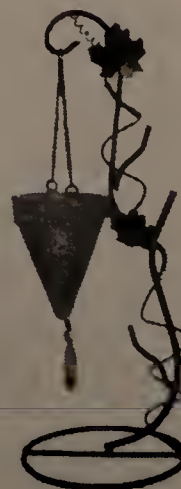
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**P**olice Beat is a log of criminal incidents in Noe Valley, defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The following crime summaries were culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside police stations during August 2004.

**Malicious Mischief:** Between 7:20 a.m. and 3:15 p.m., Monday, Aug. 2; 1300 block of Noe Street

A woman returned home after work to behold a soggy scenario: Someone had turned on the water in her faucets and stuffed the drains with towels. Her carpet was wet and the kitchen linoleum was under water. She said she would have a talk with her roommate about the situation.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday, Aug. 2; Noe and Jersey streets

The owner of a 1983 BMW reported that someone broke into his car and stole bottles of wine, compact disks, and knives.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between 11 p.m., Monday, Aug. 2, and 8:42 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 3; Noe Street between 24th and Elizabeth streets

A man who was caring for his neighbor's 2002 Volkswagen Jetta while she was out of town reported that one of the vehicle's rear-door windows had been broken. He was not sure whether anything had been stolen from the car.

**Burglary:** Between 4:30 a.m., Saturday, July 31, and 10:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 3; 200 block of 28th Street

A woman returned from a trip out of town to discover her laptop computer missing. One of her roommates reported that she had come home one day during the victim's absence to find the back door to the house unlocked. The sus-

## POLICE BEAT

### Those Curb Painters May Not Be Legit

Ingleside Station Captain Paul Chignell reports that there are people knocking on doors in the area and offering to paint curb numbers for a fee. The vast majority of these people do not have authorization to solicit this work, he says, and need a special permit from the Department of Public Works. If you are approached, call Robert Arevalo of DPW at 725-6130 or 695-2182.

pect was unknown.

**Theft of Plates:** Between 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 3, and 12:45 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 7; Alvarado and Sanchez streets

Front and rear plates were taken from a 1999 Honda Civic parked at Alvarado and Sanchez streets. The plates bear the California license 4FVH717.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between 10:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 4, and 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 5; 500 block of Valley Street

Two residents of Oregon reported that their vehicle was broken into while parked on Valley Street. Missing items included clothing, CDs, and a stereo.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between 9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 5, and 9 a.m., Friday, Aug. 6; 500 block of 29th Street

A 29th Street resident reported that an unknown suspect broke into his 1997 Honda Accord, stealing a stereo and cam-

era as well as the car's battery. The door lock and dashboard were damaged.

**Burglary:** Between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 6; 1400 block of Dolores Street

Residents of Dolores Street reported that an unknown person broke into their home and stole a number of items, including laptops, a camcorder, two watches, and jewelry. Police believe the burglar entered through a bathroom window.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between 4 p.m., Friday, Aug. 6, and 9 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 8; 27th and Church streets

A stereo and its accessories were stolen from a 1989 Honda Accord parked at 27th and Church streets.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 7, and 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 8; 600 block of Duncan Street

A Petaluma resident reported that tools were stolen from her gold 1990 Honda Civic while the vehicle was parked on Duncan Street. The stereo was also damaged.

**Burglary:** Between 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 10, and 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 11; 400 block of Elizabeth Street

A worker at a house under construction notified police that a jackhammer and dolly, worth more than \$1,500, had been stolen from the job site. No suspect has been found.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between 10:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 10, and 8 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 11; Castro and Alvarado streets

An unknown suspect broke into a 1985

Toyota Landcruiser and stole \$3,000 worth of clothing and a duffel bag.

**Theft of Vehicle:** Between 1 and 7 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 11; 400 block of Jersey Street

A silver 2001 Honda Civic was stolen from near the home of a Jersey Street resident. The car bears the California license 4RPG470.

**Theft of Vehicle:** Between 8:10 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 12, and 9:05 a.m., Friday, Aug. 13; 28th and Church streets

A Duncan Street resident reported a white 1995 Honda Civic stolen from 28th and Church streets. The car bears the California license 4HUK174.

**Theft:** Between 9 p.m., Friday, Aug. 13, and 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 14; Jersey and Castro streets

A Jersey Street man reported that two mountain bicycles were stolen from a rack on his car, where they had been secured.

**Burglary:** Between 9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 14, and 1 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 15; 300 block of 29th Street

A 29th Street resident reported that someone stole a digital camera and a bottle of liquor from his home. His cousin, who lives upstairs, witnessed the burglary and reported that the thief was a family friend who had dined with the victim earlier in the evening. With friends like that...

**Burglary:** Between 2 and 2:45 p.m., Monday, Aug. 16; 400 block of Elizabeth Street

A contractor working on a house on Elizabeth Street reported that an unknown person stole his laptop computer from inside the house. Since many work-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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by Deb L. Kinney

### TAKING CHARGE: HOW LGBT FAMILIES CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES

As the struggle for LGBT rights continues, it can be difficult to keep up with the many changes taking place in the laws that affect our lives. Although the volume of information is overwhelming at times, there is one thing that all LGBT couples should know: *there are steps you can take right now that will protect you no matter what happens in the legislature or the courts.*

In California, the law is currently changing for the better. On January 1st, AB 205 will go into effect to give same-sex partners who have registered with the state of California virtually all of the protections (as well as all of the responsibilities) that the state government

grants to married couples. AB 205 recognizes the basic equality of our relationships, and as a matter of civil rights, it represents significant progress. On the other hand, registration is not for everyone, and even for those who do register, AB 205 is not a complete solution to the issues that face LGBT families.

The major limitation of AB 205 is that it has no impact on federal law, which is the source of many of the important rights that married couples have. For same-sex couples, seemingly straightforward legal moves such as pooling your assets, putting each other's names on deeds, and other simple acts of commitment can result in onerous tax penalties. The good news is that there are a wide variety of estate planning tools that LGBT couples can and should use to protect themselves.

Transferring assets to a well-designed living trust is the first step in the process. Should one partner die or

become ill, a living trust can prevent a court fight for control over that partner's assets. Wills provide a place to specify guardians for minor children. Powers of attorney for health care allow partners to appoint each other as medical decision makers. More advanced tax-driven strategies can reduce or eliminate estate taxes.

The legal system provides significant flexibility; each family can utilize a variety of tools to create the legal arrangement that is right for them. But all these strategies have one thing in common: *they require planning in advance!*

Deb Kinney is a partner in Boutiette + von Herrmann, LLP, a San Francisco law firm specializing in estate planning for LGBT families. Our firm provides realistic solutions that reflect the goals and desires of each client.

If you would like to find out more about how to protect yourself and your loved ones, visit [www.bvhlaw.com](http://www.bvhlaw.com), or call 415.693.0550 to arrange for a complimentary consultation.

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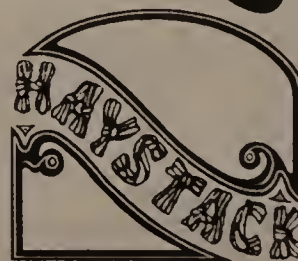
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# POLICE BEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

ers were in the house and the premises were unsecured, police have not pinpointed a suspect.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between 3 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 17, and 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 18; Hill and Noe streets

A local resident reported that someone broke into his 1992 Ford Escort, damaging his dashboard and stealing his car stereo and earthquake kit.

**Theft of Vehicle:** Between 11:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 18, and 6:30 a.m., Friday, Aug. 19; 400 block of Diamond Street

A green 1998 Acura Integra was stolen from Diamond Street near 21st Street. The car bears the California license 4AOH023.

**Recovered Vehicle:** 7:35 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 18; 200 block of Duncan Street

A green 1989 Chevrolet Astro van was recovered on Duncan Street near Dolores. The car was towed to the Auto Return department.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between noon, Thursday, Aug. 19, and 9 a.m., Friday, Aug. 20; Day and Sanchez streets

The owner of a 1990 Toyota Camry reported that an unknown person broke into her car and stole maps, the auto registration, and a FasTrak responder.

**Theft of Vehicle:** Between 9:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 19, and 4 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20; Church Street between 29th and Valley streets

A Dolores Street woman reported her burgundy 1999 Toyota Tacoma stolen. The vehicle bears the California license 5X12237.

**Burglary:** Between 11 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20, and 9 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 21; a church in the 1200 block of Sanchez Street

A local church was burglarized by an unknown person who stole \$50 in cash and a digital camera, a caretaker who lives at the church reported. The thief apparently entered through an unsecured window.

**Burglary:** Between 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21, and 1 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22; 1400 block of Noe Street

A man reported that he returned to his apartment after a night away and discovered his back door unlocked and several items missing, including a laptop and watch.

**Burglary:** Between 8:30 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 22, and 7:30 a.m., Monday, Aug. 23; 500 block of Alvarado Street

Residents of two adjoining apartments discovered several items missing after a burglary, including a bicycle, jewelry, and a backpack. No suspect has been found.

**Theft of Vehicle:** Between 5:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22, and 7 a.m., Monday, Aug. 23; 1400 block of Noe Street

A black 1997 Honda Civic belonging to a Noe Street resident was stolen. The car bears the California license 3UGS922.

**Battery:** 3:20 p.m., Monday, Aug. 23; 600 block of Clipper Street

A man pushed his elderly mother to the ground, dared another family member to call the police, and then fled the scene during a domestic dispute. The man's

mother took out a restraining order against him.

**Theft from Vehicle:** Between 11:25 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 24, and 6:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 25; Sanchez Street between Duncan and 28th streets

Several items were stolen from a 1990 Oldsmobile Cutlass, including a makeup bag, baseball cap, and car radio.

**Burglary:** 8:51 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 25; 4100 block of 24th Street

An unknown suspect broke into an apartment complex and went through the garage area, opening cabinets and smashing a car window. Police could not find any signs of forced entry.

**Assault, Aggravated:** 2:46 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 26; a drugstore in the 1300 block of Castro Street

An attempted shoplifting went bad when employees of a local drugstore observed a man leaving the store without paying for some toothbrushes and vitamins he had concealed on his person. When employees attempted to detain the thief, he sprayed them with a fire extinguisher, used the extinguisher to hit one of the employees on the shoulder, and bit him on the arm. When police arrived on the scene, they were able to subdue the shoplifter. The toothbrushes and vitamins were left at the store.

**Suspicious Occurrence:** 3:40 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 26; a store in the 3800 block of 24th Street

A local shopkeeper reported that a representative of one of the distributors he works with demanded premature payment and yelled at him in front of customers. He reported the incident because he believes the man is potentially violent.

**False Impersonation to Receive Money or Property:** Reported 4 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 26; 1500 block of Church Street

A Church Street resident reported that someone opened a Sprint cell phone account in her name. She did not discover the fraud until she received a bill for more than \$400 from Sprint; the account was cancelled and she was not required to pay.

*The Voice thanks Mission Police Captain John Goldberg and Ingleside Officer Mike Smith for providing the incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Erin O'Briant.*

## HOW TO CONTACT THE SFPD

Noe Valley residents and merchants are welcome to attend community meetings held monthly in both the Mission and Ingleside police districts. The next Ingleside meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m., at 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission Station's next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 26, 6 p.m., at 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Noe Valleyans who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the Mission Police District) should report recurring problems by phoning Mission Station at 558-5400 or e-mailing [SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us). To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call the nontraceable hotline at 558-5452.

Residents and merchants in "outer" Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact officers at Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing [SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us).

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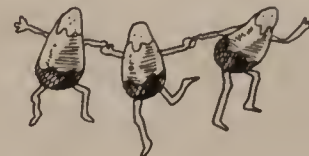
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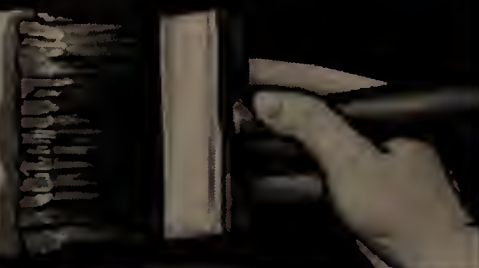
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## This 'n' That

By Laura McHale Holland

September brought us news of recent adventures from several noteworthy neighbors. Let's start off with 28th Street resident **Jessica Rigby**. A teacher of humanities and civics at San Francisco's Gateway High School, Rigby joined an Earthwatch research team this summer for a 16-day expedition to Canyonlands National Park in Utah.

What did she do? She and five colleagues examined the amphibian and insect populations along Salt Creek, the park's perennial stream. The data they collected will be used to help determine the impact of humans, especially vehicular traffic, on the region's ecology. This information will be factored into future national park decisions about road construction.

"I'm not a scientist in any way, so doing scientific research was really exciting and invigorating for me intellectually," Rigby says. She honed her teaching skills too. "There's a big argument about how Canyonlands will be used. One group wants to build a road, and one group opposes a road. It's really a good example for teaching the idea of scarcity and how you place value on a commodity that's scarce."

Earthwatch provides both field excursions and online education for teachers, students, business leaders, and resource managers. Rigby's participation was sponsored by the Jewett Foundation, and she was one of 350 teachers worldwide to receive an Earthwatch research fellowship this year.

Also on the move is actor and writer **Dan Hoyle**. Hoyle's home is on Sanchez Street, where he was reared by his parents—master comic **Jeff Hoyle** and **Mary Winegarden**, a lecturer at San Francisco State University. In 2002, he traveled the world after receiving a Circumnavigator Club grant to study the effects of economic globalization.

*Circumnavigator*, his solo performance chronicling that trip, debuted at Chashama Presents in New York in May and subsequently received an enthusiastic reception at the Marsh on Valencia Street. The initial five-week run in July and August was extended through Sept. 25. Then Hoyle took a two-week break to tour the show on college campuses while also working on a documentary film with his brother Jonah about swing states in the coming presidential election. *Circumnavigator* reopens for a two-week run at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street, Thursdays through Saturdays, Oct. 14 through 23. (Call 826-5750 for tickets, which are \$10 to \$14.)

Of his extended run, Hoyle says, "It feels pretty amazing because I knew I wanted to do a show when I left on my trip, but I was a 22-year-old college kid,



Here's Jessica Rigby, weighing a toad she captured while on an Earthwatch research trip this summer. "The toad is inside the bag. The long, pencil-like object is the scale," she points out. "After we measured, weighed, and identified the type of toad, we let them back out into the desert. Fun, huh?"

and I didn't know that I could have success in the real world—I don't think anyone knows until they do—and so it's been hugely inspiring."

Hoyle, who recently graduated from Northwestern University with a double major in history and performance studies, has big aims. "I'm trying to bring the complexity of what people can do in journalism and writing into an entertaining form," he says. "This whole idea of lived experience as theater is exploding. There's a hunger for realness, and there's nothing more real than somebody recreating their own experiences, especially if it's about some real issues and not just about the crazy casseroles my grandmother used to make. Of course, you need both. Theater needs to work its magic in human stories. And that's the great challenge for me, bringing these nuanced things into theater in a way that's going to engage people. Instead of reading about something in the *New York Times*, they'll be seeing it and experiencing it," he says.

Hoyle attributes his success to his supportive family, and to his director **Charlie Varon**, who, he says, "has a genius for pulling out what is interesting and possibly amazing in somebody's lived experience." He is also grateful to the community of friends he's known since he was a kid, who packed the house early on and created a buzz. In January, Hoyle will leave for Nigeria to study oil politics for a year on a Fulbright scholarship. Will it result in another show? You bet.

Next up: Artist **Ben Dominguez**. A lifelong resident of Clipper Street and a City College alumnus, Dominguez has devoted himself full-time to painting since 1992, when he took early retirement from his job as a driver for PG&E. (If you frequent the Valley Tavern on 24th Street, you may recall seeing his expressionist oil paintings on display there at the beginning of this year.)

"My work is a cross between Renaissance and surrealist types of paintings.

Some people have said my still lifes resemble Monet and Cézanne, but of course my street scenes and locations are very different." Many depict San Francisco.

This summer, his work won awards at two nearby county fairs. His miniature oil paintings won a silver (second place) ribbon at the San Mateo County Fair, and reproductions of his paintings on postcards and place mats won a first place and Best in Show at the Marin County Fair.

"I'm having so much fun, I could never work a regular job again," Dominguez says. "Of course, I worked for 30 years, but it's been long enough now that I forget that I even used to work. I love it."

Call Dominguez at 647-6050 if you want to visit his studio. Or, if you're planning a jaunt to Pacifica soon, one of his paintings is in a group show at Sanchez Art Center, 1230 Linda Mar Boulevard, through Oct. 31. Several of his paintings are also on display in the East Bay show-room of El Cerrito Honda. But there's no rush on that. They've been on view there for three years, with paintings being replaced as they are sold.



Ben Dominguez's oil paintings proved to be very popular at the 2004 Marin County Fair. This 1998 painting is titled "Twilight Bay, San Francisco."

**Shannon Miller** didn't retire, but she did get laid off from her longtime job as an executive assistant with Chevron Texaco in 2002. Due to her long tenure with the company, she wasn't left high and dry, so the first thing she did when she got the news was buy herself a Yorkshire terrier puppy and named him Gadget. "I'd wanted a Yorkie forever. I saw them all over the streets of Paris when I went there in 1998," she recalls.

Miller bonded quickly with her new companion and found that not only did he wake her up at 6 a.m. every day, but he also got her out walking around the neighborhood. Last May, Miller met a woman walking a Lhasa Apso puppy named Shakespeare. Miller learned that her new acquaintance was looking for someone to care for her pup during the day. "I just fell in love with Shakespeare, so I said I'd take him," she says. "Then I called up four dog-sitting places nearby and priced myself lower than all of them."

Things have gone so well with Shakespeare that Miller has officially gone into

business as **Puppy Love**, a dog-sitting service for canines that weigh less than 20 pounds. She charges \$25 per day for 10 to 11 hours, \$10 extra if the dog stays overnight. She only has room for a total of four full-time dogs at her Duncan Street digs, but she can accommodate drop-ins, too. She teaches basic commands, does potty training if necessary, and provides healthy treats. Gadget is taking it all in stride.

**Elyse Shafarman** has also just gone into business for herself, teaching the Alexander Technique. She graduated from the Alexander Training Institute last December, and also completed her M.A. in psychophysiology from San Francisco State at the same time. Before hanging out her shingle in September, she interned for nine months with Frank Ottiwell, who is director of San Francisco's Alexander Training Institute.

Shafarman's vocation was developed by Frederick Mathias Alexander (1869–1955). He was a Shakespearean actor who contracted chronic laryngitis—the death knell for a thespian. Determined to restore the full use of his voice, he carefully watched himself while speaking. After deciding that excessive muscular tension accounted for most of his problem, he devised ways to retrain his body to move differently. Thus, the Alexander Technique, which works to change movement habits in everyday activities, was born.

Shafarman, now in her mid-30s, first tried the technique when she was an 18-year-old modern dancer in training. "My first [Alexander] lesson was a dramatic experience. I left feeling like I had a completely different body. My walking was light as air. Colors looked brighter. It was an incredibly transforming experience," she recalls. "I also noticed that for several days afterwards, my jumps were higher, my extensions were really high. I was a much more graceful and skilled dancer than I knew it was possible for me to be. I also became fascinated by how my thinking affected my body state, and conversely, how my body state affected my thinking, which has pretty much been my obsession ever since."

A typical Alexander lesson lasts 45 minutes. "The teacher will use very gentle, hands-on guidance to help educate the student about where they're interfering with optimum functioning. Then you get to practice inhibiting the tension habits and giving yourself mental directions for better functioning of your whole self," Shafarman says.

Shafarman works out of her Guerrero Street home as well as in an office on Chenery Street. She charges \$40 to \$60 per session. You can reach her at 342-6255.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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Clouds to the East. And above 23rd Street.

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Photo by Jack Tipple



## This 'n' That

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

per session. You can reach her at 342-6255.

**Iliana Vasquez** and **Natalie Gomez**, who both graduated from Immaculate Conception Academy (the all-girl, Catholic high school located at 24th and Fair Oaks streets) in June, must be feeling buoyancy akin to what Shafarman describes. They each received full scholarships for both their undergraduate and graduate studies from the Gates Millennium Scholars program. They were among only 1,000 students nationwide selected for this award. Vasquez is now attending the University of San Francisco, and Gomez is at Santa Clara University.

"With the help of great teachers, I have been given the opportunity of a lifetime," says Vasquez. "I now have so many possibilities for a wonderful education and a brighter future."

Gomez expresses similar sentiments. "The [Bill and Melinda] Gates Foundation acknowledged my hard work, the support of my family, my excellent teachers, and the amazing education I received at ICA," she says. "It's a wonderful accomplishment for everyone in my life and everyone who will be in my life. It has broadened my horizons in so many ways."

What distinguished them, aside from their stellar GPAs and test scores? Principal **Sister Janice Therese Wellington** knows. The list of Vasquez's extracurricular achievements is long: student council, cheerleading, campus ministry, theater, and playing and coaching soccer and tennis. "Because she took on so many responsibilities and really followed through,

she elicited the respect from both peers and teachers," Wellington says. "She often found herself being a mediator, and she had the ability to insert humor into situations that really helped. She also came to realize that her success is not about pleasing her parents or about showing off, but it is about realizing her own potential so that she would be successful."

Gomez was a member of the National Honor Society and California Scholastic Federation, and Las Latinas Unidas. She devoted much of her time to tutoring other students. She was also part of ICA's campus ministry, taking leadership in retreats and prayer services. "Over the years, I found that when confronted with some difficult choices that would not have been popular with her peers, Natalie was able to make the right decision, the truthful decision in each case," recalls Wellington. "That takes a lot of guts when you're a teenager. She was always responsible, generous, and really a person of integrity. She also managed to do all of this and hold down a part-time job."

So neighbors, no matter your age or current situation, be inspired, and do us proud! Then share the news with your neighbors. You have until the 15th of the month to send in news of your personal milestones. We're interested in everything from new babies to new ventures, book signings to academic honors.

Contact us by e-mailing [thisnthat@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:thisnthat@noevalleyvoice.com). Or if it's more convenient, leave a message at 415-821-3324 or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.



## Look! Up in the Sky! The Origins of Superman!

By Heidi Anderson

Sometimes truth is more compelling than fiction. That's what Noe Valley writer Gerard Jones discovered when he began digging for facts while writing his latest book, *Men of Tomorrow: Geeks, Gangsters, and the Birth of the Comic Book* (Basic Books, \$26). The book describes the lives and times of the real characters who created Superman—Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.

"I was interviewing some cousins of Jerry's. They were talking about family histories, things like when they immigrated over, when all of a sudden, one of them says, 'Yeah, it was such a tragedy that his father was murdered.'"

The robbery and murder of Siegel's father, of course, would be a sad and telling part of the man who went on to create the first superhuman character who saved the world from Crime and Evil on a weekly basis. Except that few—if any—of the millions of rabid comic book fans were aware of Siegel's past history.

Says Jones, "I knew this was a story that had never been told."

Jones, who has lived on Noe Street for 13 years, was a comic book fan himself as an adolescent growing up in Los Gatos in the '70s. His first superhero was the Hulk, with whom he identified strongly. In fact, Superman didn't interest him that much back then. But his dad used to tell him wild stories about the heyday of pulp fiction in the 1930s.

Since then, he has written three books on popular culture, and spent half a career writing story lines for *Batman*, *Spiderman*, and *Green Lantern* serials.

All along, he wondered about the people behind the original comics. But he wasn't satisfied with what he found on the library shelf. "So, maybe it's that classic thing. I started writing about what I wished I could read."

In his new book, he chronicles the sordid beginnings of comics, which is a story imbedded in the gangster-run warehouses and sleazeball publishing offices that sprung up during the Prohibition era.

*Men of Tomorrow* starts out with another sad moment in the life of *Superman* co-creator Siegel. This time, he's in his 60s, penniless, and riding the bus to his job at the post office. While reading the newspaper, he discovers that the movie *Superman* has just been given the green light at Warner Brothers and it promises to be a blockbuster. Siegel is crestfallen, knowing his name won't appear in the movie credits. But wait, all is not lost...

Jones' book tells how Siegel and Shuster eventually got some money and recognition for *Superman, the Movie*, and how the two buddies crafted their way out of Jewish tenements and suburban geekdom to bring the chisel-jawed, blue-eyed Superman to life. □

Gerard Jones will reveal more at a book-signing on Friday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m., at *Cover to Cover Booksellers*, 1307 Castro Street. You can also meet him at *A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books*, 601 Van Ness Avenue, on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 1 p.m.

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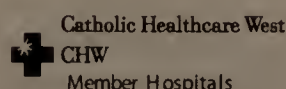
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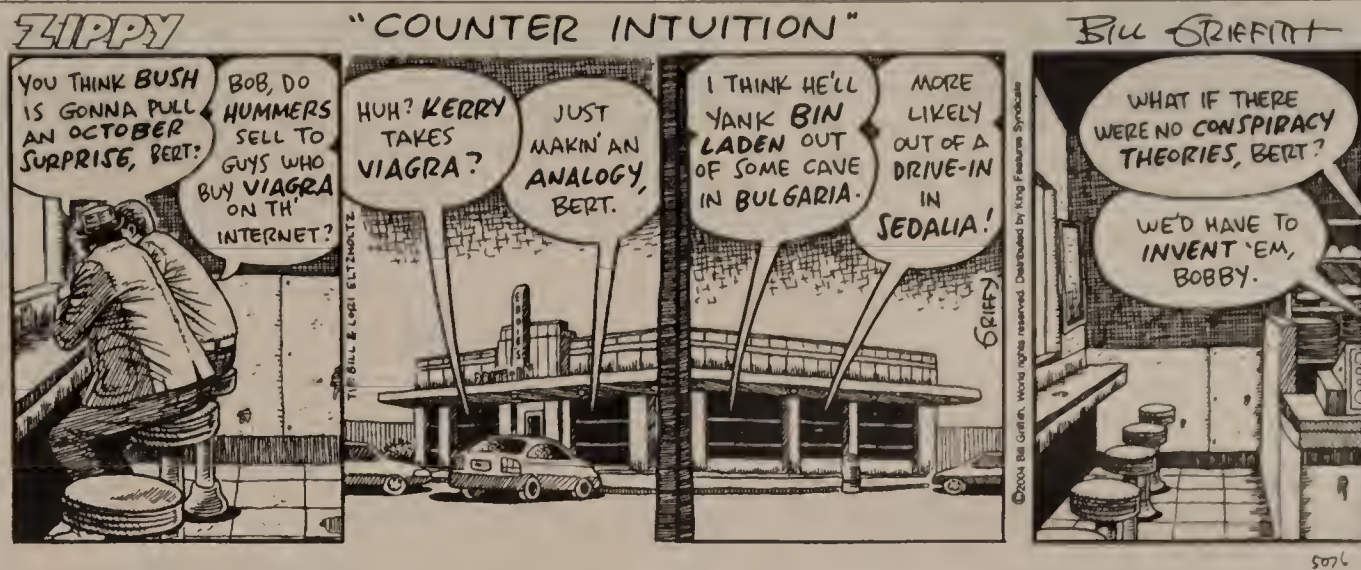






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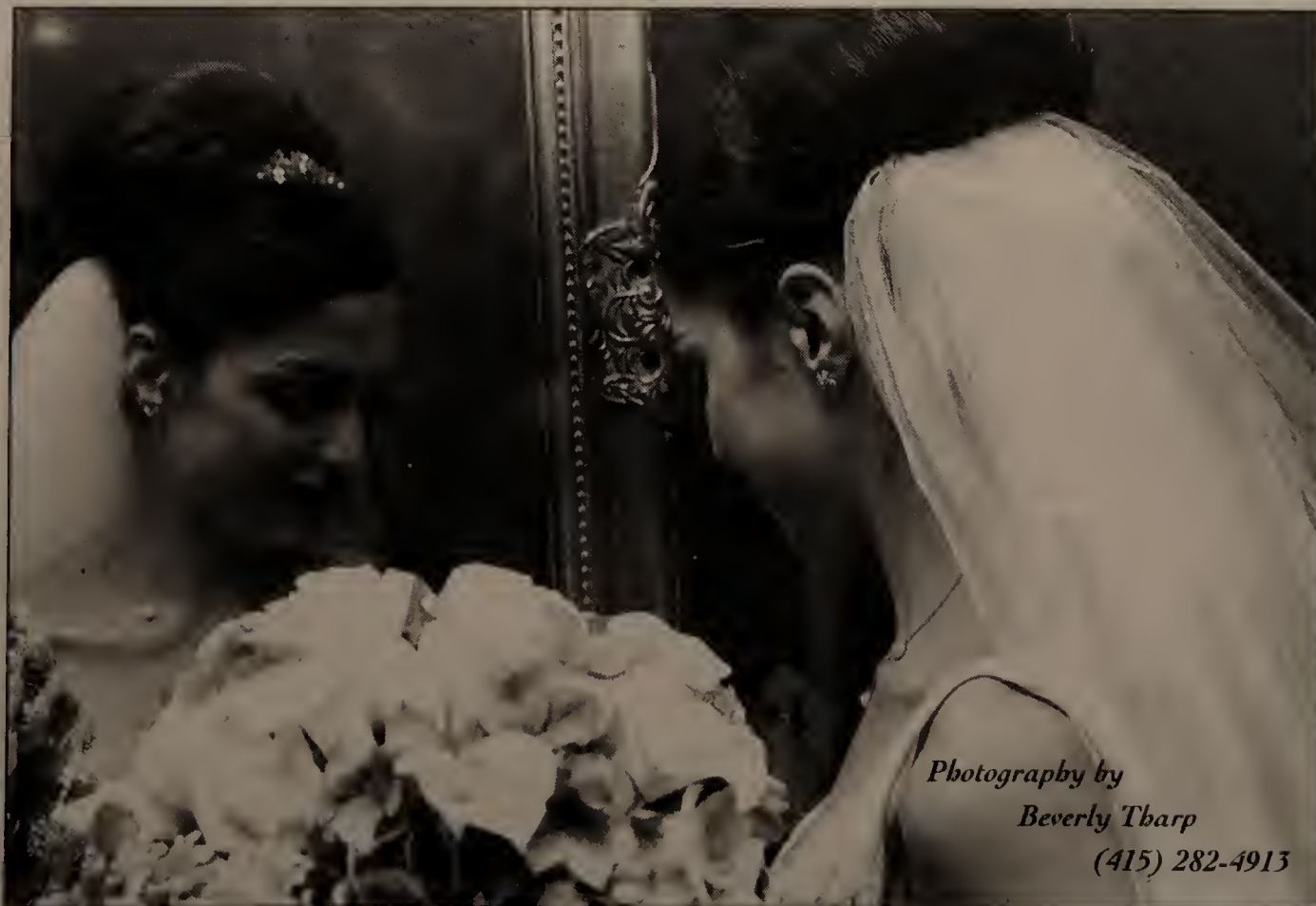
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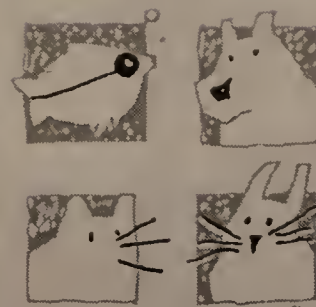
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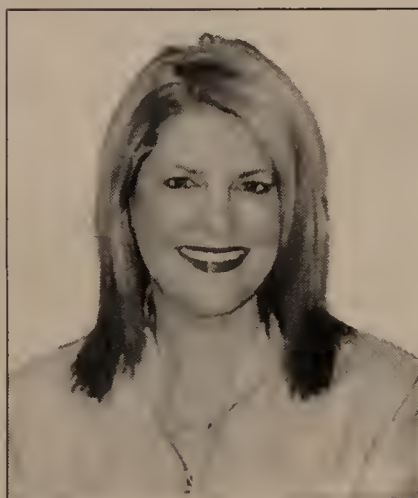
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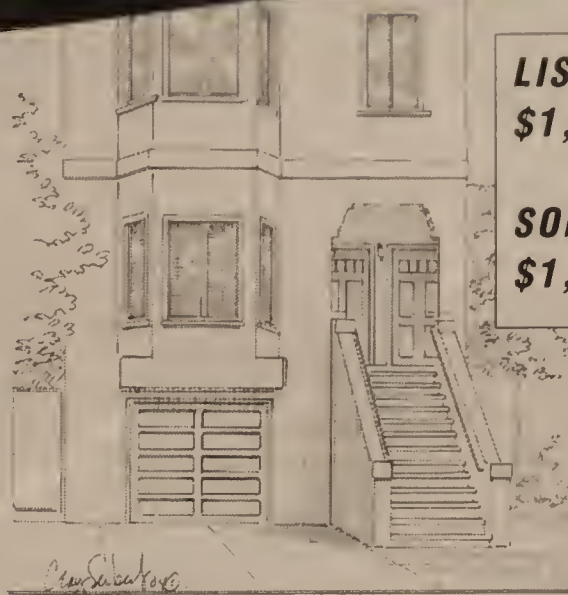
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# . OCTOBER 2004 .

**SEPT. 30–OCT. 3:** The 40th annual BIG BOOK SALE of the Friends of the S.F. Public Library features 135,000 books. 10 am–6 pm. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason. 437-4857.

**OCT. 1–3:** Mexican BOLERO TRIO Los Panchos performs music of South and Central America at the Brava Theater Center. Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. 2789 24th St. 647-2822.

**OCT. 1–22:** A solo exhibition by Noe Valley artist MARLENE ARON, "In Stillness and Layering of Time," includes two site-specific installations and mixed-media work on canvas, wood, and paper. Mon.–Fri., 9 am–6 pm. California Institute of Integral Studies, 1453 Mission St. 575-6242.

**OCT. 1–29:** The House of BLUEGRASS features the Bluemoon Boys on Oct. 1, the Acme String Ensemble on Oct. 8, the Squirrely String Band on Oct. 15, Poor Man's Whiskey on Oct. 22, and Wire-n-Wood on Oct. 29. 7 pm. Maxfield's, 398 Dolores St. 255-6859.

**OCT. 1–29:** Chris Sequeira holds classes in T'ai Chi. Mon. & Tues., 6–7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am–noon, at Douglass Park, 27th & Douglass. 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

**OCT. 1–OCT. 17:** Marie Riccobene teaches DRAMATIC ARTS, including audition preparation, for teens. Tues. & Thurs. or Wed. & Fri., 4–5:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-1456.

**OCT. 2:** LEAP hosts the largest SAND-CASTLE BUILDING CONTEST in Northern California, with 20 teams of professionals representing elementary schools. 10 am–2 pm. Ocean Beach near the Cliff House. 512-1899.

**OCT. 2:** The Noe Valley Co-Op Nursery School holds a GARAGE SALE from 9 am to 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**OCT. 2:** An OPEN HOUSE at the Tenants Union honors inductees into the 2004 Hall of Fame and includes an all-you-can-eat barbecue, music, and a yard sale. 11 am–4 pm. 558 Capp St. 282-6622.

**OCT. 2:** The third annual FILM IN THE FOG is a 1956 sci-fi classic, *Forbidden Planet*. 5–9:30 pm. Presidio Main Post Theater, 99 Moraga Ave. 561-5500.

**OCT. 2:** The CALIFORNIA GUITAR TRIO performs jazz, classical, surf rock, and original music. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**OCT. 2–24:** Artspan's 29th annual OPEN STUDIOS runs four weekends, 11 am to 6 pm; on Oct. 9 and 10 artists in Noe Valley, Castro, Bernal, Glen Park, Diamond Heights, Mission, and Excelsior will display their works. 835-3150.

**OCT. 2–31:** Noe Valley artist SHERROD BLANKNER is contributing to the group show "Fresh Paint," at 855 Sansome St. Opening party Oct. 2, 6–9 pm. 377-2325.

**OCT. 3:** Natural Resources offers a Child and INFANT CPR class. 9 am–1 pm. 816 Diamond St. 550-2611.

**OCT. 3:** A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS service at Bethany Church begins at 11 am. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

**OCT. 3:** The CASTRO STREET FAIR features art and entertainment. 11 am–6 pm. Castro & Market. [www.castrostreetfair.org](http://www.castrostreetfair.org).

**OCT. 3:** Rocket DOG RESCUE shows off adoptable dogs at Zephyr Real Estate. Noon–4 pm. 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

**OCT. 5:** A Muse for Children offers 10-week ART CLASSES in drawing, painting, collage, and mixed media. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-4347.

**OCT. 5:** Julie Ulmer teaches a six-week after-school ART CLASS, "People and Faces." Kids 6 to 12. 3:30–5 pm. Artsake, 3961 24th St. Preregister at 695-0506.

**OCT. 5, 11, 20 & 26:** Little People's Workshop hosts SOPHIE THE STORYTELLER, especially for children up to age 3. 3:30 pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

**OCT. 5, 12 & 26:** Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 6–NOV. 10:** "Elbows Off the Table" is a fun ETIQUETTE CLASS, focusing on courtesy, for ages 5 to 12. Six Wednesdays, 4–5 pm. Terra Mia, 1314 Castro St. 642-9911.



Greg Proops from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* is one of the comedians performing at the "George Bush Going Away Party" Oct. 9 at the Herbst Theater.

**OCT. 7–17:** Noe Valley FILMMAKER Jay Rosenblatt's *I Like It a Lot* will be screened at the Mill Valley Film Festival. Schedule: 925-866-9559 or [www.mvff.com](http://www.mvff.com).

**OCT. 9:** James Lick Middle School holds a CAR WASH fundraiser for the yearbook. 8:30 am–2 pm. Upper playground, 1220 Noe St. 436-0349.

**OCT. 9:** Seamus Flanagan leads a class to make eyeglass holders, wine charms, napkin rings, and gift wrap in "Give It Up for GIFTS," at Beadissimo. 10 am–12:30 pm. 1051 Valencia St. 282-2323.

**OCT. 9:** "A Day at CHUTCHUI II" is an open house examining the relationship of the mission Indians and the missionaries in the 1700s. 10 am–noon. Old Mission Dolores, 3321 16th St. 621-8203.

**OCT. 9:** Alexis Fajardo teaches two five-week courses in CARTOONING. Noon to 2 and 2:30–4:30 pm (advanced). Artsake, 3961 24th St. Preregister at 695-0506.

**OCT. 9:** POLITICAL HUMORISTS perform at "The George Bush Going Away Party," hosted by Lisa Geduldig from Kung Pao Kosher Comedy. 8 pm. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave. 431-7363.

**OCT. 9:** Bird and Beckett bookstore hosts a reception and poetry reading for DIANE DI PRIMA's art exhibit, "Collages and Surrealist Poems," to run through Dec. 31. 2 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

**OCT. 9:** The INCREDIBLE STRING BAND performs acoustic Celtic folk/bluegrass music; Espers opens the show. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**OCT. 9, 16 & 23:** A three-session earthquake and DISASTER PREPAREDNESS training class is offered by the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) and the S.F. Fire Department. 9 am–4 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St. Register: 970-2024, [www.sfgov.org/sfndnert](http://www.sfgov.org/sfndnert).

**OCT. 10:** A 5K DOGGONE FUN RUN and walk benefits PAWS and the SPCA. 9 am. Lindley Meadow in Golden Gate Park. 554-3007.

**OCT. 10 & 17:** The Children's Classic FILM FESTIVAL at the Castro Theater continues with *National Velvet* (1945) on Oct. 10 and *Cheaper By the Dozen* (1950) on Oct. 17. 429 Castro St. 1-866-468-3399.

**OCT. 11:** Modern Times Bookstore hosts a benefit for MOVEON.ORG with readings by "a talented line up of literary stars." 7 pm. The Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd St. 647-2888 or 282-9246.

**OCT. 12:** Counselors from Medicare Today discuss the merits of the Prescription Drug DISCOUNT CARD for seniors. 10 am–noon. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 510-465-8230.

**OCT. 12:** The New College School of Law holds a workshop, "How to Present a Case in SMALL CLAIMS COURT." 6 pm. 50 Fell St. 241-1300.

**OCT. 12–NOV. 16:** Summer Anderson leads a CHILDBIRTH preparation class, Tuesdays from 7 to 9:30 pm. Natural Resources, 816 Diamond St. 550-2611.

**OCT. 13:** A REQUIEM for Matthew Shepard begins at 7 pm. St. John the Evangelist Church, 1661 15th St. 861-1436.

**OCT. 14:** La Coterie Style Studio hosts FASHION WORKSHOPS, call STYLE-911 for sign-up. 3961A 24th St.

**OCT. 14:** VOLUNTEER training at St. Luke's Hospital is held the second Thursday of each month from 3 to 5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538.

**OCT. 14:** "Let's Put HARVEY MILK Back in City Hall" is a fundraiser to install a sculpture of the late supervisor; speakers, entertainment, and appetizers provided. 7–10 pm. GLBT Center, 1800 Market St. [www.milkmemorial.com](http://www.milkmemorial.com).

**OCT. 14:** Many neighborhood shops will stay open until 8 pm on SECOND THURSDAYS, for after-work shopping.

**OCT. 14–17:** OKTOBERFEST by the Bay features German beers and food, and the Chico Bavarian Band. Thurs. and Fri., 5 pm–midnight, Sat., 11 am–11 pm; Sun., 11 am–7 pm. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center. 1-888-746-7522.



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# CALENDAR



**OCT. 15:** Medical entomologist Robert Gay discusses VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES and mosquito control. Noon–1 pm. City College, Science Building, Room 300 239-3475.

**OCT. 15:** CANINE WINE & OINE features a silent auction to benefit Second Chance Rescue. 6:30–10 pm. Presidio Officer's Club, 721-1721.

**OCT. 15:** Noe Valley author Gerard Jones signs his new book *MEN OF TOMORROW: Geeks, Gangsters, and the Birth of the Comic Book*. 7 pm. Cover to Cover Booksellers, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

**OCT. 15:** LITOUAKE Literary Festival presents "Lit Crawl," a literary pub crawl along Valencia Street. 7 pm. [www.litquake.org](http://www.litquake.org).

**OCT. 16:** Fairmount School holds a RUMMAGE SALE, bake sale, and car wash to benefit school services. 10 am–3 pm. 65 Chenery St. 695-5669.

**OCT. 16:** The Noe Valley Merchants Association sponsors a HAYRIDE and sidewalk sale along 24th Street. Pick up the horse-drawn wagon at Castro and Jersey. 10 am–2 pm. 282-2665.

**OCT. 16:** Herminia Albarran Romero offers a PAPEL PICADO workshop for ages 6 and older. Noon. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. Space is limited; call 355-2800 to register.

**OCT. 16:** Patricia Grey, curator of the Noon Reading Series at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., discusses tips on getting a POETRY reading and reads from her book *Rupture*. 2 pm. Bird and Beckett, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

**OCT. 16:** Composer/pianist Bryan Kong and soprano Elender Wall perform "The Poetry of DONALD RUMSFELD." 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**OCT. 16, 23 & 30:** LAPSITS for infants and toddlers feature songs, stories, and



Epiphany Productions performs "Trolley Dances" along the F-Market line Oct. 23 and 24. Photo by Andy Mogg

fingerplays; at the special Halloween lapsit on Oct. 30, be sure to come in costume. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 16–NOV. 2:** "Spell: 13 Invocations for WORLD PEACE" is a collaboration of dance, art, music, activism, and spirituality. 8 pm. SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. 273-4633.

**OCT. 17:** City Guides hosts a walking tour, "CASTRO: Tales of the Village." 11 am. Meet under the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro and Market. 557-4266.

**OCT. 17:** The 16th annual FIESTA ON THE HILL in Bernal Heights features a pumpkin patch, a petting zoo, vendors, and entertainment. 11 am–6 pm. Cortland Street. 206-2140.

**OCT. 17:** GEDFF HOYLE, Sharon Lockwood, and others read scenes by Oario Fo in a benefit for Modern Times Bookstore. 2 pm. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**OCT. 17:** The Bird and Beckett BASH at the Clubhouse at 350 O'Shaughnessy features readings and live music to celebrate the bookstore's five-year anniversary. 3–8 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

**OCT. 19:** FILMS for preschoolers 3 to 5 will be on view at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 19:** Juanita Ulloa performs Mexican and Latin American SONGS. 10:45 am. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

**OCT. 19:** "ELECTIONS and Their Discontents: The Voting Quagmire" is the topic at the Gray Panthers meeting. 12:30–3 pm. 1187 Franklin St. 552-8800.

**OCT. 20:** Community Care Licensing offers a CHILD CARE LICENSING orientation from 9 to 11:30 am, and a workshop from 12:30 to 3:30 pm, the third Wednesday of each month. Children's Council of S.F., 445 Church St. 343-3333.

**OCT. 20:** Diane de Prima, David Meltzer, Deborah Major, and A.D. Winans are among the participants at "Engaged: POETS for Democracy and Core Freedoms." 5:30–7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

**OCT. 20:** The Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC CLUB holds its monthly meeting at 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 206-0231.

**OCT. 22–24:** The California Academy of Sciences offers FREE DAYS for residents of the 94110 zip code; bring a driver's license or utility bill. 10 am–5 pm. 875 Howard St. 321-8000.

**OCT. 23:** The Noe Valley Ministry's FLEA MARKET features great stuff and tasty food. 8:30 am–3 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. To donate, call 282-2317 for a pickup on Oct. 22, from 2 to 6 pm.

**OCT. 23:** San Francisco's Walk for FARM ANIMALS benefits Farm Sanctuary's rescue programs. Registration, 10 am; walk 11 am at the Ferry Building. 577-0766.

**OCT. 23:** The Older Women's League (OWL) hosts a LECTURE and demonstration by CMT Elly Showalter, "Your Joints and Muscles Can Move Pain Free." 10:30 am–noon. Call 989-4422 for location.

**OCT. 23:** ASTRONOMY DAY and Night includes family science and art projects, and an evening of telescope observation. 1–4 and 7–10 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**OCT. 23 & 24:** Kim Epifano's Epiphany Productions performs TROLLEY OANCES along the F-Market streetcar line. One-and-a-half-hour tours leave from the Main Library every 45 minutes, from 12:15 to 4 pm. 100 Larkin St. 267-4825.

**OCT. 24:** A celebration of the 50th anniversary of *The ALICE B. TOKLAS Cookbook* features readings, reminiscences, and a short film. 2 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

**OCT. 24:** The gala opening concert of Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC features pianist Peter Grunberg, tenor Thomas Glenn, and mezzo-soprano Elza Van Oen Heever performing art songs and arias, followed by a champagne reception and silent auction. 5:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236.

**OCT. 27:** City Guides offers a tour, "GHOST WALK at City Hall." 6:30 pm. Enter at Goodlett Place (Polk Street), and meet in South Light Court. 557-4266.

**OCT. 28:** The Portola Festival of 1909 and post-earthquake rebuilding will be discussed at an illustrated lecture sponsored by the S.F. HISTORY ASSOCIATION. 7 pm. Mission Olores Auditorium, 16th and Church. 750-9986.

**OCT. 29:** The Noe Valley Music Series hosts a celebration of the music of PHIL OCHS, with special guest Eric Anderson. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**OCT. 30:** In honor of DAY OF THE OEAO, make an altar with artist Anita Oe Lucio-Brock, all ages. Noon. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. Call 355-2800 to register.

**OCT. 30:** Registered nurse Pat Marjavi discusses "How to Have the Kind of BIRTH You Want in the Hospital." 12:30–2:30 pm. Natural Resources, 816 Diamond St. 550-2611.

**OCT. 30:** Glitter and Razz Productions holds a HALLOWEEN FAIR, with torture-telling by Madame Razz. 1–4 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 759-5765.

**OCT. 30:** DEADLINE for artists 11 to 18 to submit a design for a character or mascot for Teen Read Month at the S.F. Public Library. For guidelines, call 557-4268.

**OCT. 30:** City College hosts a BALL-ROOM OANCE Halloween Party, costumes encouraged. 7–10 pm. Ocean Avenue North Gym Dance Studio, 452-5353.

**OCT. 31:** COMEDY DAY in Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow features more than 30 funny performers. Noon to 5 pm. [www.comedyday.com](http://www.comedyday.com).

**OCT. 31:** Kids who dare to visit HOFFMAN the Haunted Street will receive special treats from 5 to 8 pm. Hoffman between Alvarado and 25th. 282-4562.

## JUST SAY NOVEMBER

The next edition of the *Voice* will be distributed on or before Nov. 1, 2004. The deadline for November calendar items is **OCT. 15**. Please note that because of space limitations, Noe Valley events take priority. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may send an e-mail to [zabarska@aol.com](mailto:zabarska@aol.com).

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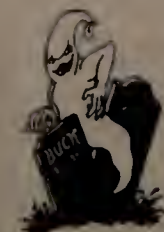
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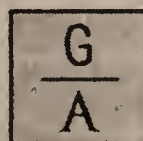


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# STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in the neighborhood. This month, we introduce a coffeehouse on Dolores and an art studio and classroom on Church Street.

**LUV A JAVA**  
1300 Dolores at 26th Street  
415-401-6444  
[www.luvajava.com](http://www.luvajava.com)

With its columns decorated with date palms, copper Turkish coffeemakers gleaming on the shelves, and handmade backgammon sets scattered throughout the room, Luv a Java, Abraham Amireh's newly opened coffee shop on the corner of Dolores and 26th streets, has a bit of the feel of his native Jordan. There's enough room in one corner of the spacious coffeehouse for a library nook, and guests are invited to grab a book—the selection ranges from Jung to *Audrey Hepburn's Neck*—and a cup of coffee and sit as long as they want. Kids can get cozy on the pint-sized couch, sip juice, and read stories from the children's section (all books are available for purchase, and most are used).

The cafe, which has been transformed from an accountant's office, offers seven tables plus window seats (and since the fire station is located across the street, there's likely to be a firefighter in attendance at most times). Customers with laptops can take advantage of free wireless Internet access, when not contemplating the nice art on the walls, all created by local artists. (Exhibits change monthly.) Sidewalk tables will also be available, as soon as Amireh gets his city permits.

Amireh, a Dolores Heights resident, owned a cafe in Fresno for years, but this is his first Noe Valley undertaking. "I love Noe Valley," he says. Manager Ruth Niehues agrees and adds, "We've got a very convenient location for your morning coffee on your way to work." The cafe is a block from the J-Church streetcar line, and a quick stop on the Dolores Street thruway to Interstate 280 or downtown San Francisco.



Amy Wheeler and Ruth Niehues (at the cash register) were pleased to greet their first customers when Luv a Java opened in August on Dolores Street.

But both Amireh and Niehues believe it's the taste of their coffee that sets them apart. The brew is a special blend which Amireh designed from beans roasted locally by a private roaster with 30 years of experience. Drinks come in small (12 ounces), medium (16), and large (20). A small cup of coffee costs \$1.25. A small latte is \$2.35, chai is \$2.50, and iced coffee is \$1.50.

Bagels and pastries from various bakeries in San Francisco and Marin are available (\$1 to \$2), as well as an excellent carrot cake for \$3. For coffee junkies who like to grind at home, a 12-ounce prepackaged bag of Luv a Java beans costs \$6.99 for regular and \$7.99 for decaf.

If you do stop by for a shot of caffeine, be sure you've got your backgammon game on, for Amireh and Niehues are dice-throwing fanatics. They're planning a regular tournament series as soon as enough players sign up. Amireh's backgammon sets are part of a collection from Syria, Turkey, and Jordan. Customers can also play chess, Dominoes, or cards—all available in the shop—or BYOG (bring your own game).

Luv a Java is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and weekends from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

—Doug Konecky

**ARTERY**  
1311 Church Street at 25th Street  
415-285-0235  
[www.arterysf.com](http://www.arterysf.com)

Asked why she decided to name her art studio Artery, owner Paula Benton quips, "I want people to have as many art attacks as possible."

Seriously, folks, Artery, which opened in a small Church Street storefront in early September, is a snug little spot for children and adults to create. Through October, Artery is offering 12 studio art classes, ranging from "Preschool Art" for 3- to 5-year-olds on Wednesday mornings to "Fimo Fun" for adults on Friday evenings.

The 12- by 14-foot room seems destined for use as an art space: it used to be Parlor, an art gallery. Benton says redecorating was easy. She painted the walls a buttery yellow and laid down squishy foam flooring for easy cleanups. She put up shelves for her supplies of paints, colored chalk, paper, markers, and animal crackers (for the after-school crowd—they're always ready for a snack). A large bulletin board takes up one wall, and Benton has framed it with examples and definitions of art, from Social Realism to Abstract Formalism. Tables, chairs, and stools, both kid- and adult-sized, are in the center of the room, where all the artistry takes place.

Opening Artery is a dream come true for Benton because it unites her three main passions—art, education, and community. Before Artery, the 10-year Noe Valley resident taught art at Hummingbirds Preschool, and before that was an event manager for City Hall. She also is part of the group that galvanized the Noe Valley Farmers' Market.

Benton leads many of the studio's classes, which are run in six- to eight-week sessions. In October, she plans on lots of Halloween projects, such as decorating canvas trick-or-treat sacks. She also plans to be open in the afternoons for James Lick Middle School students to drop in.

All five of Artery's teachers are Noe Valley residents, including Molly Campbell, who teaches a printmaking class (\$128/eight-week session), and Chris Myers, a toy designer who offers the popular ArtBOTS class (\$108/six-week session). In that one, children ages 7 to 9



Artery owner Paula Benton holds 1-year-old Noya after copying Noya's footprints on a frame for mom Annie Dudkiewicz.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

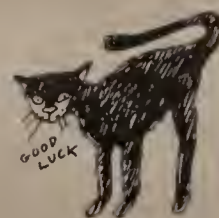
learn everything there is to know about connecting motors, lights, and batteries to create and take home their own robot.

Other classes include mask- and puppet-making for kids, beadwork, and a watercolor class for adults. (Classes will change in November, so it's a good idea to stop by the studio for a brochure.) Classes run from \$90 to \$140 per session and include all materials. There are also drop-in classes for students 6 years and older (accompanied by an adult) at a cost of \$12 per class on Saturdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Those who want to throw an art party or exhibit can hold it at Artery on alternate Sundays and Saturday evenings. Prices range from \$75 to \$150.

"Art needs to be a part of our daily lives," Benton says with a twinkle in her eye. "And not something done *in vein*."

Artery is open Monday through Saturday. Hours depend on classes scheduled. Stop by the studio for a brochure.

—Olivia Boler



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# SHORT TAKES

## Meet Famous Women Authors

Litquake, the popular eight-day literary celebration established in 2002, is returning the week of Oct. 9 through 17, with an expanded schedule featuring over 150 authors. One of the events, "Writing Women's Lives," is taking place at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sunday, Oct. 10.

It will feature readings and a panel discussion on women's literature, by such acclaimed authors as Ann Packer, author of *The Dive from Clausen's Pier* and *Mendocino and Other Stories*; Maxine Hong Kingston, author of the classic *Woman Warrior*; ZZ Packer, whose short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker* and many anthologies; Liz Maverick, author of *The Shadow Runners*; and Julie Orringer, author of the short-story collection *How to Breathe Underwater*.

The evening will be moderated by David Kipen, book critic for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The Ministry is at 1021 Sanchez Street, at 23rd Street. Doors open at 4 p.m.; admission is \$10. Visit [www.litquake.org](http://www.litquake.org) for more information about this and other Litquake 2004 events.

## Bands Boost the Bird

Glen Park's independent bookstore, Bird & Beckett Books, is holding a benefit on Sunday, Oct. 17, from 3 to 8 p.m. at the Miraloma Club House, 350 O'Shaughnessy Blvd., at Del Vale.

The \$10 admission will include entertainment. "We'll have a lot of music for the duration, different bands like Tango No. 9, a belly dancer, a jazz jam session. There'll also be food from Glen Park food vendors and restaurants," says Eric Whittington, the store's owner. "We're hoping to underwrite our cultural program, like the poetry readings and the jazz sessions we have every Friday night with the Chuck Peterson Sextet. We're also starting a speakers series in January that will focus on politics and current issues."

October's highlights at the store include Diane di Prima reading "goofy surrealist poems" on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2 to 4 p.m. She'll also hang some of her collages, which will be on view until the end of the year. On Sunday, Oct. 24, the Edinburgh Street Woodwind Quintet will play works by Hindemith and other modern classical composers. And on Halloween, Sunday, Oct. 31, at 4:30 p.m., Walker Brents will discuss the plays of William Shakespeare. "Come in Elizabethan costume, if you're so inclined," Whittington encourages.

Bird & Beckett Books is at 2788 Diamond Street, at Chenery. For a schedule of events, call Whittington at 586-3733, or e-mail [birdbeckett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birdbeckett@sbcglobal.net).

## Made in Noe Valley

San Francisco Open Studios, now in its 29th year, will showcase artists from all over the city on weekends in October. Noe Valley's weekend in the sun is Sat-



Local artist Mark Madsen will show creations like this camphor wood platter during Open Studios weekend Oct. 9-10.

## NOE VALLEY ARTISTS

participating in Open Studios  
Oct. 9-10, as of press time

Jim Myrick, 1303 Castro Street, painting, drawing, and mixed media  
St. Christo, 513 Liberty Street, painting, watercolor, drawing  
Kevin Grady, 516 Douglass Street, glass  
Renato Martinez, 4244 23rd Street, painting  
Susan Bistline, 1357 Church Street, mixed-media  
Josephine Lea Iselin, 601 Diamond Street, photography, printmaking, technology/new media  
Michael Markowitz, 3747 23rd Street, drawing, sculpture, painting  
Muffin Hyche, 468 Valley Street, painting  
Jenny Badger Sultan, 1696 Sanchez Street, painting, drawing, mixed-media  
Henry David Sultan, 1698 Sanchez Street, painting, drawing  
Mark Madsen, 462 30th Street, mixed-media, sculpture, fiber  
Mik-Mik, 1760H Diamond Street, painting, drawing  
Terry Connor, 814 Duncan Street, painting  
Donna Blow, 10 28th Street, wearable art/jewelry  
Seth Matarese, 1 Fair Oaks Street, #6, painting, watercolor, drawing

urday and Sunday, Oct. 9 and 10.

Sponsored by the nonprofit group ArtSpan, Open Studios gives people a chance to meet artists in their home studios and to view their artwork in a less formal setting than a traditional art gallery.

"It's great exposure, and I get to meet all kinds of wonderful people, and collectors, and neighbors that normally I wouldn't even see—unless I was taking out the trash," quips painter Muffin Hyche, an Alabama native now living and working on Valley Street. She describes her abstract expressionist work as very bold and colorful, and heavily textured.

This is the second year that mixed-media artist Mark Madsen is opening his 30th Street studio Woodpile Artworks to the public. "About 150 people came through last year and showed a lot of interest in my work, taking cards and saying they must tell their friends," he recalls. "One person even said he had just paid \$3,000 for a similar art piece at Gump's. Mine was \$495."

Madsen's work is made primarily with wood he recovers from tree-trimming companies, parks, and golf courses. Some pieces have stone and metal flakes inlaid to enhance the grain. "I produce many functional pieces like translucent salad bowls, lamps, and platters," he notes.

All of the neighborhood artists participating this year (see Noe Valley list above) will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. A map will be printed each week in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, and ArtSpan is publishing a free magazine guide, which will feature samples of artwork by the artists. For more information, check the Open Studios web site at [www.sfopenstudios.com](http://www.sfopenstudios.com).

## Calling Young Artists

Attention, all artists ages 11 to 18! The San Francisco Public Library needs you. October is Teen Read Month, and to celebrate, the library is holding a design contest for a mascot to represent the library's Teen Services Department.

The character/mascot should be reading books or using a computer. All entries are to be hand-drawn or colored, *not* in digital format. Paper size should be 8-1/2 by 11 or 9 by 12 inches. Drop off your entry at any public library. It should be in an envelope addressed to Office of Children and Youth Services, Attention: Jennifer Collins, Teen Specialist Librarian.

Deadline is Oct. 30, 5 p.m. Winning design award: \$100. Limit: one entry per person. Click the Teens link at [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org) for more details, or call Jennifer Collins at 557-4268.

This month's Short Takes were written by Laura McHale Holland.



## NOE VALLEY MINISTRY

Presbyterian Church, USA  
1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street 282-2317  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childcare provided.  
Rev. Keenan C. Kelsey, Pastor

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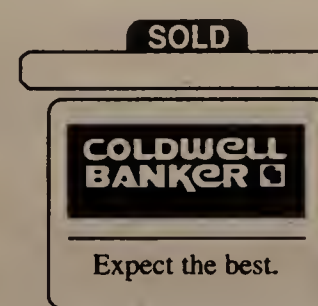
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# SHORT TAKES

## Etiquette for the Small Set

Terra Mia Decorative Art Studio is hosting a new program for children ages 5 to 12. Entitled "Elbows Off the Table," it promises to teach young people etiquette through fun interactive role-playing and other activities.

Focusing on courtesy and respect rather than arcane rules of behavior, the class will be taught by Simla Akyol, the owner of a creative event and party business called It's a Piece of Cake. In addition to brushing up their manners, children will paint their own teacups, saucers, and tea service and use them in the class.

The fee is \$225 for six Wednesday afternoon sessions, 4 to 5 p.m., from Oct. 6 through Nov. 10. Terra Mia also has an after-school program for kids ages 7 to 12. It runs Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and costs \$160 per week. Young artists will work with watercolors, acrylics, ink, ceramics, and collage.

For more information call Terra Mia at 642-9911, or drop by the studio, 1314 Castro Street, at 24th Street.

## Before Mission Dolores

Old Mission Dolores and Heyday Books had great success co-producing "A Day at Chutchui" in August, so they are doing a followup, "A Day at Chutchui II." The event will be Saturday, Oct. 9, at Mission Dolores, 3321 16th Street at Dolores Street.

Chutchui was the name of the native Ohlone village that was once on the shore of Dolores Lagoon. The lagoon was part of Mission Bay, a vast marsh that stretched out over what is now the Mission District.

The day's presentations will explore the lives of San Francisco's native peoples, Spanish missionaries, and military, as well as the conflicts that wracked their relationships in the 18th and 19th centuries. Ohlone descendants will demonstrate native crafts, including making soap-root brushes and cooking with acorns. Docents will explain the Ohlone influences on the mission's architecture. There will also be a digital projection of the Indian murals recently revealed from behind the baroque 1797 altar. In the graveyard behind the church, historians will discuss the famous and infamous San Franciscans buried there.

The programs run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is adults \$7, students \$5, seniors and children under 12 \$3. Proceeds will benefit educational programs at Old Mission Dolores. For tickets and group discounts, call 621-8203, ext. 21, or e-mail [chochenyo@aol.com](mailto:chochenyo@aol.com).

## A Sculpture of Harvey Milk

The Harvey Milk City Hall Memorial Committee is hosting its inaugural fundraising event on Thursday, Oct. 14, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community (GLBT) Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia.

The committee's aim is to raise \$90,000 over two years in order to place a sculpture of former San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk in City Hall. In 1977, Milk, who devoted his life to politics and to freedom of sexual expression, was the first openly gay person to be elected to the Board of Supervisors. Sadly, in 1978, he was gunned down, along with then Mayor George Moscone, by Dan White. His life, however, inspired countless others to work for civil rights.

Entertainers lined up for Oct. 14 are the Whoa Nellies, Arturo Galster, Trisa Klipp, James Patrick Kennedy, Betsy Salkind, and the Restoration Sanctuary

Choir. Speakers include Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Matt Gonzalez, Harry Britt, Dan Nicoletta, and Wayne Friday. Emcees are Heklina, Donna Sachet, Gary Virginia, and Tita Aida.

The suggested donation is \$10 to \$1,000. For further information, visit [www.milkmemorial.org](http://www.milkmemorial.org).

## Classical Series Turns 12

The Noe Valley Chamber Music series (NVCM) begins its 12th season on Sunday, Oct. 24, with a gala opening concert and silent auction at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, at 23rd Street.

Mezzo-soprano Elza Van Den Heever and tenor Thomas Glenn, accompanied by acclaimed pianist Peter Grunberg, will headline the event. "We're thrilled to have them. The vocalists are two young and exciting stars of tomorrow who are definitely making names for themselves here in the Bay Area," says NVCM's director, Eric Valliere. "The auction's always a lot of fun, too. You're listening to a concert, but you're surrounded by all sorts of things from all over town, especially from neighborhood merchants who donate gift certificates for dinner, wine, overnight stays in guesthouses, and weekend trips."

Tickets for the season gala are \$40 and include concert admission, silent auction, champagne, and dessert. The auction begins at 5:30 p.m.; showtime is 6 p.m.

NVCM presents Sunday concerts at 4 p.m. monthly from October through May. Artists include accomplished chamber ensembles, as well as outstanding solo vocalists and instrumentalists from the San Francisco Symphony and Opera. This year, the series will also include the world premiere of David Carlson's *True Divided Light*, NVCM's first commissioned work. NVCM is also inaugurating Noe Valley (h)Ears, a project that will add unique instruments and more contemporary music to the mix.

For tickets and further details, including descriptions of all of this year's artists, visit [www.nvcm.org](http://www.nvcm.org) or call 648-5236.

## National Velvet at the Castro

The Children's Classic Film Festival, which debuted at the Castro Theater on Sept. 26, will continue through Nov. 21. This festival is a fundraiser for San Francisco School Volunteers and is geared especially for family audiences.

"We have two small children ourselves, and my husband and I wanted more choices in what movies our children can see," says Karen Nasser, the festival's producer. "I decided to bring back some old classic films to the big single screen and give families a chance to see movies that the parents saw in theaters when they were kids." All shows are on Sundays at noon. In addition to the featured films, there will be live entertainment and a raffle, "so it really is a Sunday afternoon of fun," says Nasser.

Next up will be *National Velvet* on Sunday, Oct. 10. This 1945 film features Elizabeth Taylor in her first starring role. Live entertainment will include a storyteller from Young Performers Theater and a children's fashion show. The original *Cheaper by the Dozen* (1950) is set for Sunday, Oct. 17. It stars Clifton Webb as the efficiency expert who runs his family as if it were a factory. ODC Dance Jam will perform as well. The festival's final screening will be *Born Free* on Sunday, Nov. 21. It is the story of a Kenyan game warden and his wife who raise an orphaned lion cub. The Peninsula Girls Chorus will also take the stage.

Tickets are \$12.50 for adults; \$10 for children 12 and under, students with ID, and seniors over 62. Pick them up at the theater, 429 Castro Street, or purchase online at [ticketweb.com](http://ticketweb.com), or by phone at 1-866-468-3399. For info, go to [www.the-castrotheatre.com](http://www.the-castrotheatre.com).

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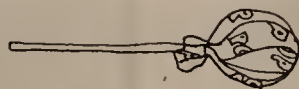






**He's Up!** Joshua Edwards, who turns 2 on Oct. 13, tests the fence in front of the Noe Valley Library.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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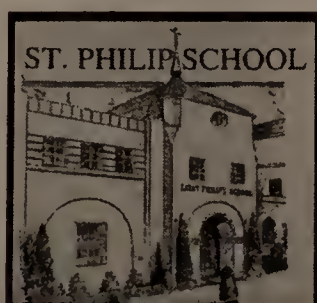


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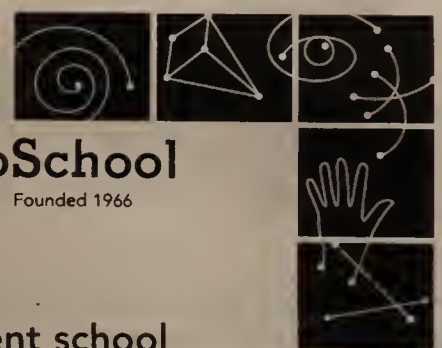
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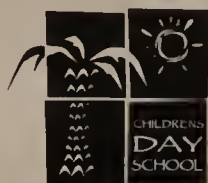
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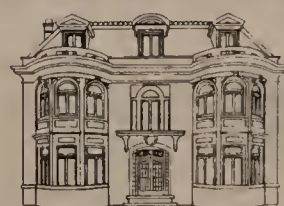
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## FAMILY ADVENTURES

## ARE WE THERE YET?

## CLOSE TO HOME

## Look Deep, Deep Into the Tide Pool, My Pretty One

And See the Ghosts of Moss Beach

By Rosie Ruley Atkins

Witches are popping up in shop windows, mail-order catalogs are filled with cozy wool sweaters, and kids' school papers are festooned with stickers of pumpkins and colorful autumn leaves.

But October in San Francisco is a funny thing. It resists the call of autumn, serving up one warm sunny day after another. If it were July or August (and by some meteorological fluke the sun were shining), we'd call these beach days. Fortunately, we live in California, home of all things fusion, so we decide that we can combine the spookiest season with a trip to the beach.

We arrive at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach at high tide when the beach's legendary tide pools are completely under water, the perfect time to explore the hiking trails in the woods that line the cliffs above the beach.

From the parking lot, we cross a tiny wooden bridge over a gurgling creek and follow a path up to the edge of the bluff, where we are treated to a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean. But this is not scary at all, so we choose a path that leads into the grove of cypress and giant pines.

"I've been in these woods before," says Zoe.

The way she says "these woods" reminds me of scary movies—the kind in which the little girl knows more than she should.

"Did you see anything scary or weird?" I ask.

Zoe rolls her eyes.

The sunlight comes through the gaps in the trees in dusty, golden shafts, and Zoe's mom Laura and I make spooky shadows and sound effects until Miles and Zoe beg us to quit.

Next to a trio of palm trees, we discover the ruins of an abandoned cottage. All that remains is the wooden threshold and the concrete slab foundation, upon which we can discern the four rooms of

the old building.

"This is the room where they cooked the children," says Laura in a spooky voice.

The kids scream and jump around in their swimsuits.

"Stop it," they holler. "It's too close to Halloween!"

I've seen the *Blair Witch Project*, so I have to agree. Abandoned houses in the middle of the woods, even ones without walls or eerie black handprints, make me nervous.

We find a spot on the beach next to a smooth white tree trunk that must have tumbled over the cliff decades ago.

"Deadwood," I can't help observing.

"Mo-om," Miles says. "Beaches aren't spooky, so don't even try."

We collect dozens of flat rocks to create a miniature art gallery comprised of precariously balanced rock towers. A ladybug appears and lands first on Zoe's arm and then on one of the sculptures. Zoe says that it's a baby ladybug because it has no spots.

A seal pops up in the water just a few feet from the shore and watches us for a while before disappearing below the surface. A minute later, he pops up again with a second seal right next to him. The two disappear and then reappear with a third seal. We all laugh and the seals seem pleased to have entertained us.

"It's like a magic trick," I say.

"Not a spooky one," Miles adds.

The tide recedes enough that an out-



The not-so-scary cypress and pines that border Moss Beach contain paths for exploring, jogging, or a quiet walk.

cropping of rock is revealed at the southern point of the beach. The sky and water are dotted with sea and shore birds that get their meals more easily at the low tide. Pelicans barrel into the water and emerge with silvery fishes as terns pick at the newly exposed tide pools.



Though the lowest tides occur during May and June, good viewing is still available during the warmth of early fall. Photos by Jock Tipple

The rock outcroppings that are home to dozens of intertidal plant and animal species are wide and flat and easy to negotiate with bare feet, and on a sunny afternoon it's almost easy to imagine that the water lapping around our toes isn't absolutely freezing. By now, the tide seems to be going out at an accelerated rate, so that more and more of the tide pools are popping up.

Tide pools don't offer themselves up quickly, like store windows or television shows. In order to discover the variety of life that is present in each depression in the rocks, you have to squat down, watch the water, and be still—no easy feat for a pair of 8-year-olds. Still, it does have its rewards.

Before too long, Miles notices a pair of sculpins, fish whose camouflage perfectly matches the rock, zigzagging around the pool. Then he notices a cluster of tiny turban snails that looks like black polka dots. A line of sea anemones clings to the shady side of the pool, their gelatinous arms swaying with the swells of the water. A lone limpet juts out from the sunny side, its conical shell looking like a funnel.

Zoe and Laura make their way across the rocks, pausing to exclaim over hermit crabs, mussels, jagged barnacles, and swaying surf grass.

The longer we stay, the more the tide recedes, revealing endless opportunities to observe marine life close up, but our adventuring has made us hungry, so we collect our things and head up the road to the Moss Beach Distillery for fortification.

Laura and I take our glasses of wine to the outdoor deck that sits below the restaurant's main dining room, which is a little too nice for our group of sandy beachcombers. The view of the beach below and the Pacific beyond is magnificent. Woolen car blankets are strewn across the weathered wooden deck chairs, but on a warm October afternoon, they're more decorative than necessary.

Miles and Zoe explore inside around the casual downstairs bar, and it doesn't take them long to find the posters and memorabilia about the restaurant's resident ghost, the Blue Lady.

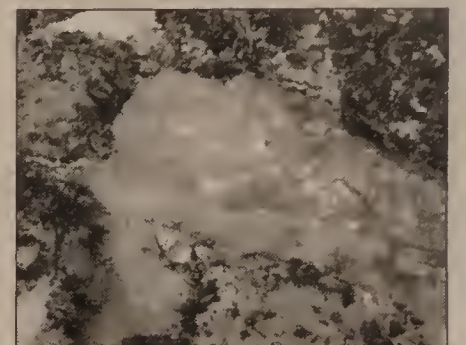
Legend has it that the Blue Lady was the lover of a man who played piano at the Distillery. She was killed on the beach a few yards from the restaurant more than 70 years ago, and since that time, customers and employees have reported seeing her and feeling her presence.

"She walks up to people and slaps them on the back of the neck," Zoe reports breathlessly.

"I felt that when we were inside!" says Miles. "I felt someone slap me."

The kids share a screech and dash back inside for more ghost-busting as Laura and I watch the sunset.

On the way home, we pass several of Half Moon Bay's famous pumpkin farms.



You may be tempted to collect some of the varicolored stones in the tide pools, but don't. You could disturb a creature's habitat.

"Let's stop," Miles begs, but it's still too early for me to bring home a pumpkin. I'm not ready to let summer go.

"We'll come back down in a couple of weeks," I promise.

"Can we visit the tide pools, too?" he asks.

I keep myself from telling him for the millionth time how lucky he is to live where he does—a place where pumpkins and beaches and ghosts come together to make the best kind of autumn I can imagine.

Who needs falling leaves and a crisp wind out of the north? □

**Are We There Yet?** is a *Noe Valley Voice* feature about places to go and things to do with your kids. If there's an activity or outing you'd like to see explored, please e-mail us at [theret@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:theret@noevalleyvoice.com).



## IF YOU GO

The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is located on the San Mateo County coast in Moss Beach, about 20 miles south of San Francisco. The entrance to the reserve is at the western end of California Avenue off Cabrillo Highway (State Highway 1). Look for the large highway sign "California Avenue" and the smaller sign "Marine Life Refuge" just below it.

The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is free and is open from sunrise to sunset daily. But before you go, be sure to check the visitor and tide information found online at [www.fitzgeraldreserve.org](http://www.fitzgeraldreserve.org).

The Moss Beach Distillery has a kids menu and a full-service restaurant and bar. Take Highway 1 to the Cypress Street exit (marked by a huge Moss Beach Distillery sign) and follow the green and white signs to the oceanfront restaurant.



A seagull scans the rising tide for Sunday brunch.





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## JAMES LICK

## Light and Magic in Autumn

It's a bright late summer day and the James Lick Middle School playground resounds with the lively banter of black-and-white-clad students eager to be together after the long school break. Gradually their lunchtime repartee merges with the heavenly voices of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, who are singing with joyful exuberance as they walk single-file up Clipper Street, the wind teasing the blue-trimmed edges of their billowing white habits. A young mother pushing a stroller past the laundromat on Castro Street pauses to absorb the enchantment of the moment. The typically impatient drivers come to a full stop at the corner. As the nuns' sweet harmonies fade, a bell summons the kids back to class, and the magic ends.

## Back to School Night

The crowd of parents and students on hand for Back to School Night on the evening of Sept. 9 overflowed the school's enormous auditorium, with many families mingling over cookies and coffee, signing up for the parent-teacher organization, or picking up literature about programs of interest to their children. Families followed the students' schedules to meet their new teachers and hear the curriculum and grading policies for each of their classes. Teachers stayed on to answer questions from individual parents.

The mother of a new Immersion Program student was happy to see textbooks written in Spanish, while the father of another sixth-grader wanted to know how the math/science teacher modified her curriculum to meet the needs of students of varying ability levels. In the Art Room, parents learned there are five basic shapes, which can be used to draw anything!

Incoming PTSA President Julia Harrison convened the first meeting of the new school year on Sept. 15 with a room full of enthusiastic parents attending. There is a new web site for the group: [www.JamesLickPTSA.org](http://www.JamesLickPTSA.org).

## Car Wash to Fund Yearbook

Yearbook class teacher Tobi Hacker announced a car wash on Saturday, Oct. 9, to raise money for the publication. The event will be on the Upper Playground off 25th and Castro streets from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and tickets may be purchased in advance for the car wash and a barbecue lunch. Ms. Hacker will teach the yearbook class first semester, followed by a journalism class during the second semester.

## Students Celebrate Spirit Week

If you see students walking around wearing funny hats or unusual costumes during the last week of October, that's because they are celebrating Spirit Week. The annual event will conclude Oct. 29 with a dance from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Congratulations to the James Lick Girls' Soccer Team, which is undefeated as of this writing! Kudos to their untiring coach, Denise Rucda, who works very hard to keep the team in tip-top shape.

James Lick Merchants/Community Alliance meetings will continue this year on the last Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m., with lunch provided. Noe Valley merchants and neighbors are welcome to attend.

**Coffee with the Principal:** Parents, neighbors, and merchants are invited to join Principal Janice Daniels for coffee and refreshments between 9:30 and 11 a.m. on the last Friday of each month. The chats take place in Room 107 and feature open discussion of school-related issues.

**Share Your Ideas,** your talents, your enthusiasm, and support for a diverse and caring community. Please visit Room 107 or contact Denise Rueda, Parent Liaison, at 415-695-5675.

**How to Contact Us:** Call the James Lick message service for same-day response: 415-436-0349. Or drop by the school at 1220 Noe Street, at Clipper Street. Thank you for your support.

—Sue Cattoche

## ALVARADO

## Flag Parade 2004

Andre painted his flag green and yellow, with a large blue oval in the center. He's still holding it high above his head when the last of the children finish their spirited procession around the neighborhood displaying flags representing the diverse origins of the school's families. The round-eyed first-grader might not realize that the 27 white stars in the blue oval replicate the night sky as it appeared over Rio de Janeiro on Nov. 15, 1889, the date when the last emperor was overthrown and Brazil became a republic. Andre likes his flag because his father came from Brazil and his grandmother lives there. She would be very proud of him on this warm September day in 2004, and she'd feel right at home with the many Alvarado families who are here to ensure the success of this annual event.

## Kids Rise Up the Ranks

The motto on Andre's flag, *Order and Progress*, could well apply to the

entire school community. Alvarado led the district in achievement test gains last year, and now the school's students have scored substantial academic gains for the second year in a row.

Principal David Weiner is especially pleased that student improvement has been consistent across all language and ethnic groups. He attributes the school's continuing academic success to the efforts of a highly dedicated staff and to support from a well-organized and committed group of parents who care about

## SCHOOL REPORT

all of the children, not just their own. Effective after-school programs, standards-based instruction aligned with the curriculum, the addition of a literacy specialist, and a reading recovery program also contributed to sustaining the school's progress.

## New This Year: Lifts and Ramps

Over the summer, many site improvements, including lifts and ramps, were added to improve access for disabled students and to accommodate wheelchairs. In addition, the school's success has attracted a well-rounded group of creative and experienced new teachers to the staff.

**Tribes Training** is Saturday, Oct. 2. Tribes is an all-day, interactive, hands-on workshop to help participants improve communications and increase positive feelings at home, at school, and in the community.

**Family Arts Workshop** is a day of fun for all ages on Saturday, Oct. 16.

**Join Us for Spooky Fun:** We'll have a Halloween Parade on Friday, Oct. 29, and a Day of the Dead Assembly on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** are scheduled for the week of Nov. 1-5. (Be sure to stop by the auditorium to see the magnificent Day of the Dead altar decorated with student art.)

**A Parent-School-Community Workday** is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6. Call the school for details if you wish to share your skills maintaining our beautiful campus.

**Chat with Principal David Weiner** on the first Friday of each month from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Alvarado Cafeteria.

**School Tours** are conducted Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 695-5695 or visit the school's web site at [www.alvaradoschool.net](http://www.alvaradoschool.net). The address is 625 Douglass Street at Alvarado.

—Sue Cattoche

## FAIRMOUNT

## Drive-Thru Rummage Sale

Fairmount families are rolling up their sleeves, cleaning out their closets and toy chests, and getting ready for one of our fall fundraisers—the Car Wash, Rummage Sale, and Bake Sale.

Pull up to the school on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and let parents and teachers scrub down your car to a shiny perfection while you shop, shop, shop, through a vast array of furniture, toys, clothes, jewelry, and anything else that families haul out. Families will also be making tamales, cookies, and various desserts.

Money raised will be used for P.E., art enrichment, field trips, and library services. Come meet Fairmount families and drive away well-fed, in your snazzy-looking vehicle, filled with new treasures.

**School Tours** begin in October, every Tuesday at 9 a.m. Come visit the school at 65 Chenery Street, and see for yourself why more and more Noe families are opting to attend this neighborhood treasure. Meet the principal, Karling Aguilera-Fort, observe students and teachers in the classroom, and ask parent guides about the school's philosophies and practices.

Each grade has two Spanish-immersion classrooms and one for English-language development. The special education program is another strong component of the school.

Call the school at 695-5669 for more information about classes or tours.

And by the way, while you're touring the school, check out those floors. Remember, it was dozens of dedicated parents, spending their evenings and weekends this summer, who pulled up the 30-year-old rugs and laid down the colorful new tile, so that students can learn in a cleaner, more pleasant environment for years to come.

—Jan Ruiz

## SCHOOL CONTACTS

**James Lick Middle School**  
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street  
415-695-5675  
Janice Daniels, Principal

**Alvarado Elementary School**  
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado  
415-695-5695  
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**Let's See What's On.** In September, a TV set abandoned on the grassy median that divides Dolores Street broadcast its last message.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Rated ★★★ Michael Bauer, San Francisco Chronicle



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## Alexis Fajardo Pursues the Fine Art of Cartooning

By Rosie Ruley Atkins

For cartoonist Alexis Fajardo, reading *Beowulf*, the seventh-century epic poem, wasn't the stuff of a summer-reading nightmare or a last-minute cramming session to prepare for an exam. Rather, he was reading the ancient classic for fun.

"I was trying to come up with a new character for a cartoon, and it occurred to me that I couldn't really imagine Beowulf [the epic poem's hero] as a kid," says Fajardo, 28, who lives on Chattanooga Street. "I wanted to do something with him, but I couldn't quite figure it out. Then I realized I could make up a childhood for him, and everything sort of fell together."

Once the creative urge struck, Fajardo, who majored in classics in college, set out to write a comicbook version of Beowulf's imagined childhood. He turned the hero's nemesis, the monster Grendel, into his separated-at-birth twin brother and set the pair on a series of decidedly tongue-in-cheek adventures.

Of course, epic heroes of ancient literature, even cheekily reimagined ones, are not exactly the kapowie stuff of Marvel Comics, so Fajardo, along with his friend and fellow cartoonist Jonathan Meyers, created Ambition Studios as a vehicle for publishing their more cerebral work. "We got tired of getting ridiculous rejection letters," says Fajardo. "So we decided the hell with them. We'll do it ourselves."

While the nascent venture, whose headquarters doubles as Fajardo's apart-

## kid BEOWULF



ment, is currently devoted to publishing only the work of Fajardo and Meyers, they believe that someday they'll be able to give the industry giants a run for their money. "We hope the studio will eventually be a space where cartoonists can create their own ideas based on history and literature, paired with good storytelling, good graphics, and classic cartooning," says Fajardo, who counts Walt Kelly, creator of the classic *Pogo* strip among his key influences. "If you look at what Marvel and DC [Detective Comics] are doing, it's wham-bam storytelling. It's garish. We want to reach people who don't necessarily read comics."

For Fajardo, one way of reaching that audience is through his extremely popular cartooning classes at Artsake on 24th Street. His first session last spring sold out, and now he's expanded to two



Two characters that populate Alexis Fajardo's work are epic warrior Kid Beowulf and the philosophical pundit Plato the Platypus.

classes—one for beginners and one for more advanced students. Both classes tend to draw both younger artists and adults, a mix that Fajardo believes enhances the experience for everyone.

"I was surprised that so many adults wanted to take my class," says Fajardo. "But it's actually a great mix. The kids tend to be more playful and fearless. They remind you that the creative process is fluid. The best stuff comes out of recklessness, but it's hard to imbue that spirit in adults."

Fajardo has also been pleased by the diversity of talent and ideas that his students bring to the classroom in the back of the 24th Street art supply store.

"Some people come with fully devel-

oped character studies and story lines," he says. "We've got dragons and chickens and superheroes. It's such a wide range of interests and ideas. It's been really rewarding for me."

For Fajardo, having kids in the class makes perfect sense. He created a character called Plato the Platypus, at the age of 7 in his hometown of Binghamton, N.Y. He has continued to produce the strip, *Plato's Republic*, publishing a weekly strip during his years at Earlham College in Indiana, and now posting online updates at [www.platosrepublic.com](http://www.platosrepublic.com).

These days, the duck-billed philosopher may waddle through Noe Valley.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50



Alexis Fajardo keeps his hand in a lot of projects: he draws an online cartoon strip, *Plato's Republic*, and a comic book series called *Kid Beowulf*; and he and a partner are editing an upcoming collection of literary comics.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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## A Literary Cartoonist

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

"Plato's not awake until he has his Martha and Brothers coffee," Fajardo says. "And maybe he'll show up at the Dubliner at some point. But he also sometimes goes to Washington. He's had conversations with Donald Rumsfeld and Ari Fleischer. I don't want to give the strip an actual setting."

That said, Fajardo finds the San Francisco cartooning scene invigorating. He moved to the city from Binghamton a little over a year ago and has been inspired by the change.

"It's a great place for cartooning," he says. "You bump into a lot of inky-fingered artists who you can hand out cartoons to. Also, there are so many outlets for comics and graphic novels. People just seem to be open to a wide range of ideas."

In addition to Artsake and Just for Fun on 24th Street, Fajardo has been able to sell his publications at Phoenix and Dog-Eared Books, Comix Experience, and several other locally-owned, independent outlets.

"It's cool that the comic store and bookstore owners are open to getting new stuff and supporting it," he says.

He has also found fans at the frequent comic-book and small-press expositions.

"I realize my subject matter isn't mainstream," he says. "But when people stop by the booth and chuckle or if there's that spark of recognition, that's great. The expos are a great place to meet other artist and publishers, too."

Fajardo is currently soliciting work for an anthology of literary and historically based comics, a process that he's finding surprisingly educational.

"We work really hard to evaluate the



Both kids and adults find inspiration at Alexis Fajardo's Saturday cartooning classes at Artsake on 24th Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

submissions carefully," he says. "I had to write my first rejection letter, and it was two pages long. The [artist's] idea was re-

ally good, but the execution wasn't up to snuff. I hope the guy will resubmit. A lot of talent is wasted by people who give up

because of a pile of rejection letters."

Meanwhile, Fajardo will continue to encourage artists, from Noe Valley and beyond, with his classes. He is also heading east this month to present the newest edition of *Kid Beowulf* at the Small Press Expo in Bethesda, Md.

Alexis Fajardo's next class series, a five-week course in *Cartooning and Comic Strip Art*, begins Oct. 9 at Artsake, 3961 24th St. For information, call 695-0506 or go to [www.artsakesf.com](http://www.artsakesf.com). To see more of Fajardo's work, go to [www.kidbeowulf.com](http://www.kidbeowulf.com).



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This month's new book list, chosen by Noe Valley librarians Carol Small and Wayne Donica, features humorous essays by David Sedaris, poems by Marianne Moore, and a book about a duck who's running for president. To find out which selections are available, call 355-5707, log onto [www.sfpd.org](http://www.sfpd.org), or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro Street. Besides books, the branch offers magazines, newspapers, DVDs, music CDs, Internet access, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Adult Fiction

◆ An unstable, disgruntled cop in a small Midwestern town becomes both suspect and potential victim after he discovers the body of a 3-year-old girl dressed as an angel, in *Lost Souls* by Michael Collins.

◆ In Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, a 15-year-old autistic boy solves a neighborhood mystery.

### Adult Nonfiction

◆ *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* is a collection of humorous essays by David Sedaris.

◆ In *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, author Lynne Truss outlines the zero tolerance approach to correct punctuation.

◆ *The Poems of Marianne Moore*, edited by Grace Shulman, is an anthology that includes more than 100 previously unpublished works by the eminent American poet.

◆ In *Who's Pulling Your Strings? How to Break the Cycle of Manipulation and Regain Control of Your Life*, author Harriet Braiker describes techniques to deal with problematic people.

◆ Lundy Bancroft offers comfort and understanding, and suggests concrete plans of action in *When Dad Hurts Mom: Helping Your Children Heal the Wounds of Witnessing Abuse*.

### Children's Fiction

◆ While performing in San Francisco, two animals miss their home and friends, so they find a way to return to them in *Penguin and Little Blue*, story by Megan McDonald, illustrated by Katherine Tilletson. *Ages 3 to 6.*

◆ Over time, a young dancer experiences an aching back, sore feet, and self-esteem issues, but she overcomes all these obstacles to perform well and enjoy the applause of the audience in Rachel Isadora's *Not Just Tutus*. *Ages 4 and up.*

◆ In a time when the presidential election is so much on our minds, you might welcome the lighter approach to the situation in *Duck*

for *President* by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin. *Ages 6 and up.*

◆ If you want to try your hand at solving a whole new set of mysteries with an experienced boy detective, try Donald J. Sobol's *Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Jumping Frogs*. *Ages 8 and up.*

### Children's Nonfiction

◆ Using the characteristic picture-puzzle format enjoyed by so many children in the *I Spy* books, Walter Wick takes children on an exciting nighttime journey in *Can You See What I See: Dream Machine*. *Ages 4 and up.*

◆ Presenting simple information about the human body and briefly discussing various forms of active sports and games, Lizzy Rockwell encourages young children to have a healthy lifestyle in *The Busy Body Book*. *Ages 5 and up.*

◆ If you are interested in various topics pertaining to dogs, such as their ears, tails, sense of smell, and relationships with humans and other animals, you can probably find the information in Marty Crisp's book *Everything Dog*. *Ages 6 and up.*

◆ Although told by one of his teachers he "would never get anywhere with art," a young student grows up to be a famous and well-loved author/illustrator in *The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss*, by Kathleen Krull. *Ages 6 and up.*

## LIBRARY EVENTS

### Stories and Films for Children

◆ Kids 2 to 5 are invited to attend *preschool story time* at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Oct. 5, 12, and 26. Children 3 to 5 can watch short *films* at 10 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 19.

### Saturday Lapsits

◆ Share stories, songs, and fingerplays with your baby or toddler at the library's *lapsits* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, Oct. 16 and 23; come in costume to the Halloween lapsit on Oct. 30.

## Cover To Cover

booksellers

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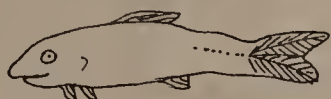
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### Advocates for Upper Noe Rec Center

Contact: Greg Clark, 826-6222  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31869, San Francisco, CA 94131-0869

Meetings: First Tuesday of the month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

### Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)

Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

### Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

### Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Bimonthly board meetings; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

### Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

### East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: First Wednesday of the month (every other month—call to confirm), Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

### Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday of every month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

### Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Pam Coxson, 648-4977  
Mailing Address: 25 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for details. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

### Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

### Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Debra Niemann, 282-9918  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: First or second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7 p.m. Call to confirm.

### Friends of the Noe Valley Farmers' Market; co-sponsor: Noe Valley Ministry

Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332

Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Even Thursdays (call to confirm). Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 6 p.m.

### Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845  
Mailing Address: 205 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

### Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119  
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

### Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: Martine, [noestrolls@aol.com](mailto:noestrolls@aol.com).  
Monthly Stroll: First Tuesday of the month, 1 p.m. To receive stroll locations and notices of other events, e-mail your first name, and your baby's first name and age, to [noestrolls@aol.com](mailto:noestrolls@aol.com) or go to [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

### Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rafael Mandelman, 648-4010  
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

### Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954  
Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month, Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

### Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

### San Jose Guerrero Coalition to

Save Our Streets  
Contact: [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com) or call 285-8188  
Meetings: See web site.

### See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

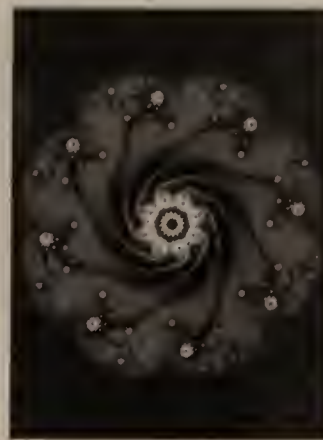
Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338  
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet at See Jane Run to pick up the route for a 5K run/walk in San Francisco.) For information, go to [www.SeeJaneRunSports.com](http://www.SeeJaneRunSports.com).

### Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission  
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary  
E-mail: [lori@tail-wagging.com](mailto:lori@tail-wagging.com)  
Web site: <http://www.tail-wagging.com/neighborhood-mainpage.htm>  
Meetings: No longer regular.  
Communication via e-mail and newsletters.

### Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.



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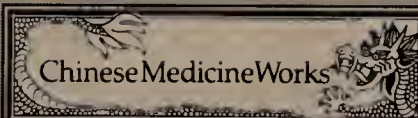


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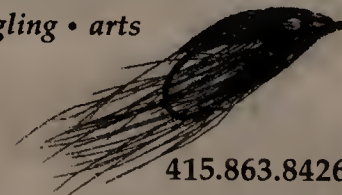
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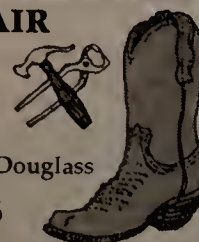
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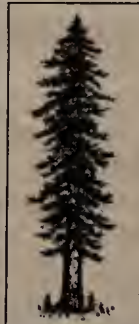
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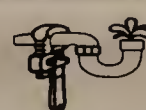
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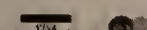
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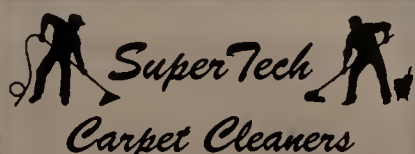


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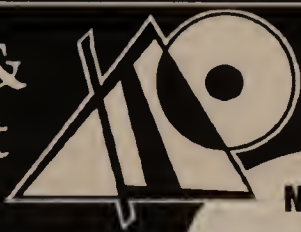
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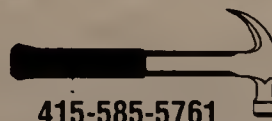
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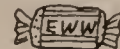
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The next *Voice* will be the November 2004 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before Nov. 1. **The deadline for Class Ads is Oct. 15.** The Class Ads will be printed in the newspaper and then displayed on our web site ([www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)) for one month.

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Back in the Saddle Again

By Mazook

**SURVIVOR, HAWAII:** After I wrote last month's Rumors column, my wife and I took the kids for our summer vacation to the island of Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands. We stayed on the south side at Poipu Beach. I won't bore you with the glorious details. Those of you who have been to Hawaii know what I mean: paradise. And an interesting one. (I always found it amazing, for instance, that the Hawaiian alphabet has only 12 letters. The state fish is the *humuhumunukunukuapua'a*.)

If you know Kauai, then you know you get to Poipu by going through the "Tunnel of Trees" into a beach area that is a veritable tunnel of fun.

After 10 delightful days and nights, we flew back from Lihue to Honolulu on Hawaiian Airlines and then boarded one of their 767s for the trip back out of the tunnel of fun and into the light of Noe Valley. Whoa, things really have been popping in the neighborhood.



**TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE:** At the top of my list is the Sept. 17, 10 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony for two new stop signs at the corner of Castro and 23rd streets. At long last, this corner will be a

four-way stop, and it only took 40 years of requests from the neighbors. Thanks to them, all of us drivers and walkers who traverse 23rd Street no longer have to face the fear and trepidation of getting across Castro Street. What makes these stop signs so special is how involved the community became in getting the message to City Hall, and how City Hall came through.

The winning push was initiated by 23rd Street resident Jane Garrison, who wrote a letter to the Department of Parking and Traffic complaining that the intersection was unsafe. She had heard a loud crash one afternoon, and her son, Chase Kauf, and neighbor friend Henry Waverka summoned her to come out and inspect the wreckage. They told her that this fender-bender was the fifth accident they had seen in about as many weeks.

Garrison got nowhere with DPT. Then she started to talk to her neighbors, including Friends of Noe Valley president Debra Niemann. The FNV took up the cause, and at Mayor Newsom's Feb. 28 town hall meeting, Niemann stood up and told Gavin about the neighborhood's need for the four-way.

Friends and neighbors followed up with pleas to Supervisor Bevan Dufty and the director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Joe Caruso. Bond Yee, deputy director of DPT, wrote to various City Hallers that "based on our investigation, we do not recommend installing the two stop signs at that corner," because "Castro Street carries the predominant flow of traffic, and that intersection has a good safety record over the past five years." He also cited "degraded service" for Muni.

Notwithstanding the DPT recommendations, Dufty got the mayor's support and introduced a resolution to the Board of Supervisors. It went to the Transportation Committee of the Board (Peskin, Mc-



A group of happy neighbors attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at a new four-way stop at Castro and 23rd streets.  
Photo by Pamela Gerard

Goldrick, Maxwell), and a hearing was held. Support then came from a multitude of neighbors and groups, and from Newsom via Caruso. The resolution passed and went on to the full board, where it proved victorious—hence the ribbon-cutting.

Before the supes' hearing, Garrison had asked Waverka's mom, Addie Lanier, if she could attend. Lanier regrettably had to decline, but asked Garrison and Niemann to convey a message to the supervisors. Lanier was sorting through the personal papers of her mother, Ruth Asawa, a couple years ago, and came upon a copy of a letter to the city written in 1964 by Asawa's 23rd Street neighbor, Sally Woodbridge, demanding a four-way

stop at Castro and 23rd because of the dangers to autos and pedestrians.

Lanier recalls: "My mother trained all of us when we were little kids, always to cross Castro in the uphill crosswalk, so cars would see us as they sped up the hill." The supervisors obviously agreed that after 40 years it was time to stop the demolition derby.

According to Dufty, who attended the ceremony along with about 30 celebrants, "It was amazing—a SWAT team from the city came, and within 30 minutes the signs were up. It was like the beauty parlor scene in *The Wizard of Oz*!"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62

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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 61

By the way, Woodbridge has long since moved to Berkeley and become a world-class architectural historian. Asawa, a world-class artist who founded the world-class Alvarado Arts Program in 1968, hasn't moved from Noe Valley and is preparing for a show of her sculpture next year at the de Young Museum. Any of you chickens who want to cross the road can now feel a lot safer.

☎ ☎ ☎

**LETTUCE BE ACTIVISTS:** On Saturday, Sept. 4, more than 100 concerned neighbors marched up 24th Street to protest the ongoing vacancy, with no sign of remodeling, at the Real Food Company. The background: The owners of the building, Jane and Kimball Allen, founded the Real Food Company more than 30 years ago, and they sold the business to Fresh Organics, Inc., a subsidiary of Nutraceutical Corporation, about three years ago. Last year, Nutraceutical shut down the store a couple of days before Labor Day with no notice to employees. Later, there was a dispute about who was going to pay to remodel the store. Since then, Utah-based Nutraceutical has let the storefront remain shuttered. After Real Food closed, an ad hoc group of Noe Valleons formed and was instrumental in setting up the Saturday Noe Valley Farmers' Market.

The Sept. 4 protest rally, which first assembled at the Farmers' Market, was well thought out. Volunteers—dressed as a banana, a carrot, a tomato, and a peapod—greeted the folks attending. After a number of speeches, the group marched up 24th Street to the front of the very empty Real Food store, where they set up tables with "boycott pledges" for people to sign.

According to co-organizer Peter Gabel, "We marched to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Real Food closure and to express how upset we all are that this out-of-state corporation has created an economic and spiritual hole in our neighborhood. We want the space to be taken over by a locally-owned organic food retailer, who has locally-grown organic foods, and who will care what happens in the neighborhood," Gabel says.

Activist Leslie Crawford notes that the protesters also wanted to celebrate the history of Labor Day and give support to the former workers at the store, whose case is currently before the National Labor Relations Board. "While we have been told that the parties came to an agreement on the 'remodel' of the store, absolutely nothing is going on in the store. We have checked to see if any permits have been applied for at that location, and we have found nothing."

Gabel says the group is eagerly awaiting the determination of the NLRB on the complaint of the terminated workers, which should be out soon. "We're also planning a community meeting on Oct. 21 at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, between 6 and 8 p.m., to discuss the issues. Everyone is invited to attend."

☎ ☎ ☎

**THIS JUST IN** from Supe Dufty, who had tried to mediate between the parties last year and then withdrew in frustration.

Dufty says he recently called Nutraceutical again (September) and talked to a higher-up who was "very conciliatory." He told Dufty that Nutraceutical and the Allens "had agreed in principal," but hadn't been able to work out the specifics of the remodeling, in the past two months.

Dufty has again offered to try to mediate between the corporation and the building's owners to get the issues resolved, so



A Sept. 4 march protesting the yearlong vacancy at Real Food Company attracted more than 100 sign-carriers and fresh vegetable advocates. The group filled out "Boycott Nutraceutical" cards and plastered Post-Its on the empty storefront at 3939 24th Street. Photo by Maureen McGettigan

construction can finally start. Dufty says he's hopeful, since Nutraceutical seems receptive. Good luck, Bevan. Let's hope for peas in the Valley.

☎ ☎ ☎

**SWELLS:** The annual Labor Day bash thrown by world-class advertising man Robert Pritikin at his rather palatial premises located on Chenery near 30th in Upper Noe Valley/Lower Fairmount caused quite a splash in the local press.

Pritikin confirms that he announced at that party his plan to bequeath his estate to the City and County of San Francisco, to use as the mayoral mansion or as a cultural center. He is trying to work out the details with the city now. "This property has one of the largest privately owned areas in the city," explains Pritikin. "It stretches across an entire city block, from Chenery to Dolores. I'm told it currently has a value of—and I know it sounds crazy—somewhere around \$40 million."

Pritikin's mansion was built 20 years ago and is one monster home that no one really objected to when it was built, maybe because it's in the center of the block, semi-hidden by smaller dwellings. It has expansive grounds, and the parties have drawn an interesting mix of people to the neighborhood. This year, among the 700 partygoers were Carol Channing and Supervisor Matt Gonzalez.

☎ ☎ ☎

**BLOCK THAT MONSTER:** A group of neighbors has successfully blocked the granting of a demolition permit to a developer at 1644 Diamond, at 28th Street. The resistance was led by Michael Rudman, who lives next door. He managed to rally his neighbors and the Upper Noe Neighbors group to stop the planned dem-

olition of a 900-square-foot house in order to replace it with something in the 4,000-square-foot range.

"The hearing was on September 9 at the Planning Commission, and they agreed with us that the proposed project was too tall and bulky," says a very relieved Rudman. "I went to some community meetings and people were very supportive and gave me a lot of insight on what to do and how to do it—and I've learned that winning on these issues is not easy, but it is possible. The commission does look at who's supporting you," says Rudman.

☎ ☎ ☎

**HAY-YA:** The horse-drawn hayride will clip-clop down 24th Street on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The annual event is free and sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. Hop on the hayride wagon at the entrance to the Walgreen's parking lot on Castro, and ride down to Sanchez Street and back.

This year, according to Merchants president Carol Yenne, the SFFD will bring some firetrucks to 24th Street for the kids to climb on, and the Farmers' Market plans to have activities for the children and live music. Many merchants along the street will be participating in a sidewalk sale, so look for bargains from aboard the hayride.

Yenne wants to inform everyone that because Halloween, Oct. 31, falls on a Sunday this year, the merchants will prepare for the local school parades on Friday, Oct. 29. The hordes of non-affiliated trick-or-treaters are expected to swoop down on Sunday, although Yenne notes, "We think it will be quieter this year."

Mark Saturday, Nov. 6, when the S.F. Mystery Bookstore, on 24th near Dia-

mond, will have a 30-year anniversary party and open house from noon till closing with refreshments and local mystery writers there to mingle and sign books. According to owner Diane Kudisch, they're expecting appearances by the very popular mystery writers Cara Black, Martha Conway, and Michael Castleman.

The Sept. 11 concert and celebration in Douglass Park, sponsored by the Friends of Noe Valley revitalization group and the Neighborhood Parks Trust, was a stark-raving success. Crowds were estimated at 250 to 300, the weather was beautiful, and everyone enjoyed the barbecue, the wine and beverage stand, and the fabulous rhythm and blues emanating from Edna Love and her band.

☎ ☎ ☎

**DEMOCRATS KERRY NOE VALLEY:** Election Day will be here very soon. Every man, woman, and child in Noe Valley should phone at least five registered voters in some other state and *tell them to vote*. If only seven out of 10 registered voters actually gets off the sofa and votes, the nation will go the way Noe Valley goes for president.

On Thursday, Sept. 23, KNBC News 11 did a feature on the political issues in San Francisco, and they filmed all of their live shots for the 5 and 6 o'clock news from the corner of Vicksburg and 24th, in front of Joe's 24th Street Café.

They also shot a segment on the political sentiments in our neighborhood, and included Harry Aleo's famous display window at his Twin Peaks Properties office. Currently, as you might well imagine, the space is filled with "Bush for President" slogans, as well as signs welcoming passersby to "Looney Valley."

When KNBC asked Aleo to talk about it on television, he respectfully declined. So they photographed the window and eventually found a substitute, Bill Yenne, and asked what it was like to be a Republican in this neighborhood. In a word, it's "lonely."

For the record, in the March primary election, out of 15,000 registered voters in Noe Valley, 1,250 registered as Republican, and not all of them voted for Bush, so there is little doubt about Kerry being the neighborhood's choice.

Well, stick a fork in me, I'm done. And remember, vote Nov. 2!



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## The Flicka

BY CAROL FANNING

*Note: Flicka is the Swedish word for girl. Greta Garbo was often called Flicka.*

Swedie's flicka was the absolute limit, she truly was. Old men still ask me about her. What ever happened to her? Where is she now? Once at a square dance, a lifelong bachelor, awash in liquid courage, said he had seen her swimming in the river with my son, and he'd had dreams about her for years. Imagine that.

That was the problem entirely. Too many people took her at face value. No more was required. With her wonderful construction and that face, it didn't seem to matter if she could talk at all.

Half-Swede, half-German, she was a walking devastation. She took no notice of the appreciative attention that came her way. A strange thing happened when she first reached beauty: she became totally absorbed, smitten, enthralled by our young blond son. He was a head shorter and two years younger than she was, and he was still in junior high, but something about him fascinated her. "What does she see in him?" we asked each other. "What does she see in him?" her parents, rudely, asked us!

Teacher friends told me, much later, that she would stand outside his classroom watching him when she certainly had better things to do. Our boy was still pudgy—cute and talented, smart and funny, but definitely pudgy. She saw something else. She was watching the transformation. To her, each and every day, he changed, he grew, he unfolded.

They were both such nice kids that neither family seemed to mind when they became inseparable best friends. They rode, they fished, they hiked and went camping with each other's family. It was the most natural thing in the world that she would pull up a chair with us. Her mother had only one problem. She felt her daughter should spend more time with kids her own age, in her own class. Being so attached to our son was a way to avoid growing up, she said. "I love him. I shall always love him," the flicka told her shocked mother. "Don't be ridiculous," her mother replied.

School, music lessons, parties kept them moving. They were never underfoot. She was a true Swede in that she was an outdoors person with boundless energy, colossal appetite, and not an ounce of fat on her. She walked that baby fat right off our son, who was now right behind her wherever she went. For a while, they were the same height and could have been mistaken for fraternal twins. Then he shot up, and she strode behind him trying to keep up.

Puppy love, we called it, when she wrote him endless letters or left long notes in his room. We didn't notice when this changed, matured; some-



thing arrived premature and perplexing. For three years this blaze continued. Our boy was the idol, the envy of the other boys and pretty stuck on himself due to the attention his romance attracted. Not to say that they were demonstrative, clingy, or touching. No, what they had was graceful and private. They were so confident with each other that they were at ease with the world.

Their schoolwork improved rather than suffered, so it was too bad when Swedie called up and said his missus said it was time "this thing" was stopped.

That summer, we sent our boy off with his brothers to work on a ranch in Corvallis, Oregon. The flicka knew the hour of his return and was sitting pretty on our porch when the boys drove in. All the following year, I heard a great deal more from her determined mother, a great deal, so we agreed to send him to the ranch right after the flicka's graduation.

As the time grew near, the youngsters began to argue and spat. She wanted him home for the parties after graduation, the boating and the picnics. She wanted to thwart her mother's wish to separate them. Until then, we had only seen the sweet side of her personality, her easygoing charm.

Our son wanted to buy a car, and saw the summer's pay as the means to this end. He knew her arguments had merit, but certainly a car to use to go see her in college would be worth another short separation?

The flicka stood between her mother and me as we waved the boys off. Swedie's wife was radiant; her daughter would have a whole summer with her own classmates, her own age group. The flicka's jaw set and her eyes narrowed in a most unattractive way as she was led away to a sum-

mer of enforced merriment. Of that summer I can only remember the frantic phone calls we had from Swedie's place, middle-of-the-night calls looking for their flicka. She was seen at the beer busts and barbecues, never leaving with the same fella twice.

When the truck finally brought the boys home from the ranch, the flicka was there like before, but hanging back in the shadows. Somehow he knew, our son knew, what had happened at home while he was gone. And he was heartbroken. You could tell it by looking at him sitting in the truck. He jumped down and walked directly out into the fields, and she followed along behind. We didn't see him again for hours. We didn't see her for years.

I still get letters from her, with photographs. Her beauty hasn't faded a bit. She asks for news of our son. She wonders what he looks like. Could I please send her a picture?

Our boy comes by and gets these letters and carries them away. He won't allow me to send her his picture. It's really a shame. She was the first to see what he would become.



*Carol Fanning and her husband Tom are native Californians who live in Bernal Heights. She has written hundreds of stories, some of which were published by Five Six Press in the collection Bandon Tales in 1997. She is currently at work on a mystery novel inspired by a cruise she took to Mexico. You can reach her by e-mail at t.fanning@verizon.net.*

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